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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the least and 5 the most, how safe and secure do you feel these days inside your home?

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57 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Freshmen
We've all been freshmen before. But few of us have been freshmen in Congress.

LOCAL...Page 14

Distraction
Madonna's marital breakup is tough, but she says work is "a distraction that keeps me going."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Study: A return to 1985 economy under federalization

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Under federalization, the CNMI economy will essentially turn back to 1985. That's what a recently released report analyzing the current CNMI economy says.

The report, *Economic Impact of Federal Laws on the CNMI*, provides two scenarios: what will happen under federalization and what will happen if the federalization laws are repealed or moderated, coined the "relief" scenario.

According to the report, under federalization, the CNMI econo-

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Visa waivers for Russia, China dim

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The U.S. government says China and Russia cannot be included in the new Guam-CNMI visa waiver program, dashing hopes of continued tourism from the two countries.

According to a semiannual regulatory plan issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security yesterday, visitors from China and Russia "cannot, at this time, seek admission under the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program due to security concerns."

In a joint statement, the Fitial

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A child tourist pushes her luggage past a stack of pushcarts at the Saipan International Airport. SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMI *scores win with foreign investor visas*

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

While unlucky with its visa waiver request for China and Russia, the CNMI appears to have succeeded in getting the U.S. government to approve special consideration for the foreign investors now in the Commonwealth.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in a "semi-annual regulatory plan" that appeared on the www.regulations.gov website yesterday, says a new visa classification will be created to help foreign investors in the CNMI as they prepare to convert from their local system to federalized system.

The new CNMI E2 Investor visa classification will be in effect during the transition period, which will end in 2014 at the earliest. According to the DHS document, most of the CNMI's foreign investors—including long-term business investors, perpetual foreign investors and foreign retiree investors—would be eligible for E2 Investor status.

The Legislature last month adopted a resolution calling for a longer transition period for foreign investors in the CNMI. The resolution came amid fears that many of the foreign investors in the Commonwealth

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CUC: Where does it stand?

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Two hundred ninety. That's the number of days left until Friday, Sept. 11, 2009, when the contract for the emergency Aggreko generators comes to an end. Under the $6-million contract, the engines provide 15 megawatts of power to the island of Saipan, which has virtually halted brownouts and blackouts.

But what happens after Sept. 11?

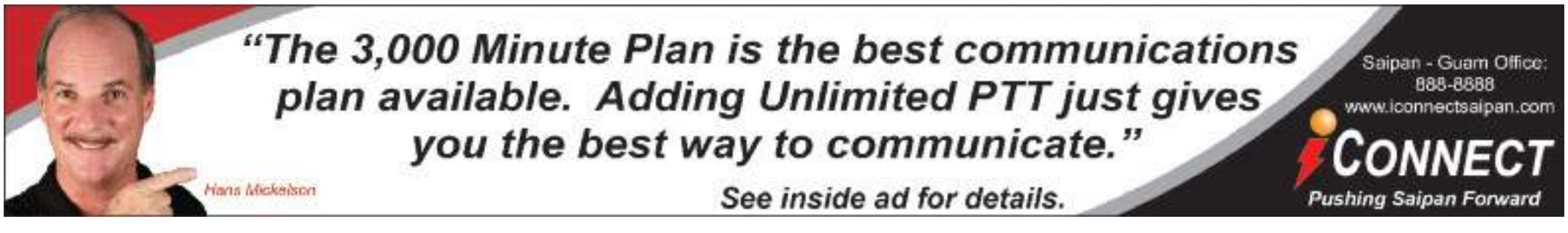
Amount of generation
(as of last week)
- Power Plant 1: 8 megawatts
- Power Plant 2: 2 megawatts
- Power Plant 4: 14 megawatts
- Aggreko generators: 15 megawatts

Total: 39 megawatts

Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s executive director Antonio Muña said CUC is prepar-

See CUC on Page 4

AGO files murder charges vs three teens. **PAGE 2**
NMI's conservation plan paves way for commercial fishing. **PAGE 6**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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Amendment of the Commonwealth's Consolidated Plan for Program Year 2005-2009
(This advertisement is paid for with CDBG funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.)

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the amendment of the Commonwealth's Consolidated Plan for Program Year 2005-2009. The amendment provides the inclusion of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) which will be made available to the Commonwealth by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Intended use of the NSP grant is described as follows:

Priority	Activity Type	Use of funds
NSP Purchase	The purchase and rehabilitation of homes and residential properties owned by banks/lending institutions that have been abandoned or foreclosed upon in the various villages of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, in order to sell such homes to eligible Low, Moderate, and Middle-Income homebuyers. [HERA §2301(c)(3)(B)]	At least 90% of NSP funds will be allocated to NSP Purchase and NSP Financing Activities
NSP Financing	Sale of NMHC-owned foreclosed properties in the various villages of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to eligible Low, Moderate, and Middle-Income homebuyers. [HERA §2301(c)(3)(A)]	At least 90% of NSP funds will be allocated to NSP Purchase and NSP Financing Activities
NSP Program and Administration Costs	Program and Administrative Costs	Up to 10% of NSP funds

All NSP funds shall be used to benefit individuals and families whose incomes do not exceed 120 percent of area median income. At least 25% of NSP funds will be used to purchase and rehabilitate homes that will be sold to eligible homebuyers whose incomes are at or below 50 percent of the area median income. The CNMI's income limits for NSP are published at http://www.huduser.org/publications/commdevl/nsp.html under Pacific Islands.

The NSP program also establishes the following affordability requirements:

NSP funds invested per Unit	**Minimum length of the Affordability Period**
Less than $15,000	5 years
$15,000- $40,000	10 years
More than $40,000	15 years

The Amended Plan is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Written comments must be received by NMHC **no later than 4:30 p.m., November 30, 2008, at our designated NMHC branches.** NMHC will be open from 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm on Sunday, November 30, 2008 to receive comments from the public.

NMHC does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to or treatment or employment of individuals under its programs or activities. NMHC has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of Section 504, the ADA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Section 504 regulations implemented by the EEOC and the Department of Justice. NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities. If you should require any additional information or need special accommodations, please contact Zenie P. Mafnas, Planner/Grant Writer at 234-6866.

/s/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director

Local

Murder charges filed vs 3 teens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Attorney General's Office has filed charges against the three teenagers who reportedly killed and robbed a security guard and burglarized some classrooms at Marianas High School in Susupe Tuesday last week.

In the information filed late Monday afternoon, the AGO charged Eric Rabauliman, 18; Edward Blas, 16; and Randy Anthony Igisomar, 16, with murder in the first degree, committed during the perpetration of burglary and/or robbery.

Rabauliman was also charged with two counts of burglary, one count of conspiracy to commit assault with a dangerous weapon and burglary, two counts of theft, and one count of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Chief prosecutor Kevin A. Lynch said that Blas and Igisomar will also be charged with burglary, theft, and assault with a dangerous weapon in juvenile court because both are only 16 years old.

Lynch said Blas and Igisomar are being charged with murder in adult court because the statute allows the filing of such charges against 16-year-olds involved in a murder case.

In the charging information, Lynch stated that that on or about Nov. 17 or 18, 2008, Rabauliman, Blas, and Igisomar killed Efren Lagua Ballesteros "with malice aforethought, during the perpetration or attempted perpetration of burglary and or robbery."

The Superior Court imposed no bail for the three defendants.

Preliminary hearing is set for today, Wednesday, at 9am before associate judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Rabauliman, Igisomar, and Blas, all students at MHS, were arrested by police last week.

Police say Igisomar and Rabauliman have confessed to the crime, saying that they attacked the security guard with a piece of wood, a PVC pipe, and a rebar before breaking into several classrooms at MHS where they stole laptops and money.

Ballesteros, 45, was found dead at MHS campus in Susupe last Tuesday morning. Ballesteros' wallet containing $300 cash and a wristwatch were reportedly stolen.

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For more information, Please call to 322-3311.

NMI's conservation plan paves way for commercial fishing

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

A newly approved Marine Conservation Plan for the CNMI appears to open the seas surrounding the islands to foreign commercial fishing to generate income that will finance programs related to the three-year plan.

The National Marine Fisheries Service, the federal agency that promotes sustainable fisheries, recovery of protected species, and the health of coastal marine habitats in the U.S., recently approved the Marine Conservation Plan for the CNMI.

The plan will run for a three-year period from Oct. 6, 2008, to Oct. 6, 2011.

A notice of the plan's approval was published in the Oct. 15 edition of the Federal Register.

Under the federal Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Management Act, the marine conservation plan is required before the CNMI governor can ask the Secretary of State—with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce and the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council—to negotiate and enter into a Pacific Insular Area Fishery Agreement.

That agreement would allow foreign commercial fishing within waters adjacent to the CNMI in the federally controlled Exclusive Economic Zone.

Accordingly, before a federal license/permit can be issued and foreign vessels can commercially fish in the waters around the NMI, a marine conservation plan must be approved, containing a detailed description of how the funds to be collected from the foreign fishing company will be used.

Earlier, Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Ignacio De la Cruz said the plan contains a provision which provides that funds raised from foreign commercial fishing will be used to pay for the closure of the Puerto Rico dump and the operations of a park to be built on the dumpsite.

De la Cruz could not be reached for comments yesterday about the plan's approval as he is attending a workshop in Fiji and will be back at the end of this month.

Acting officer in charge Jack Songsong said he is not in a position to comment on this and is not aware of the conservation plan.

Songsong referred the issue to Division of Fish and Wildlife director Sylvan Igisomar. Igisomar, however, did not respond to several e-mail inquiries.

The National Marine Fisheries Service notes that under federal law, any payments received under the Pacific Insular Area Fishery Agreement shall be deposited into the U.S. Treasury and then covered over to the Treasury of the Pacific Insular Area for which the funds were collected.

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council approved the CNMI's marine conservation plan in June 2007 and recommended its submission to the Secretary of State for approval.

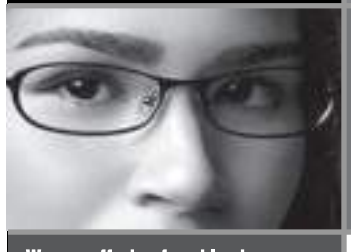
The National Marine Fisheries Service received the plan on March 10, 2008, reviewed it and informed the CNMI government that the plan was incomplete.

On Sept. 23, 2008, DLNR submitted an amended version to the National Marine Fisheries Service with 12 objectives: data collection and reporting; resource assessment and monitoring; incidental catch, bycatch, and protected species interaction; habitat assessment and monitoring; management procedures; surveillance and enforcement; marine conservation and education; public participation; regional cooperation; performance evaluation; and Western Pacific demonstration projects.

The following are the 10 major projects identified with the objectives for potential funding under a Pacific Insular Area Fishery Agreement (in order of priority);

- EEZ enforcement program;
- Subsistence and recreational harvest monitoring system;
- Commercial harvest monitoring;
- Charter fishing economic impact study;
- Analysis of data on pelagic fishery resources;
- CNMI commercial fisheries baseline assessment;
- Regional fisheries meeting and conferences funding assistance;
- Recreational and subsistence fishing economic impact use study;
- Fisheries technology program; and
- Local auction marketplace feasibility study.

November is DIABETES AWARENES MONTH



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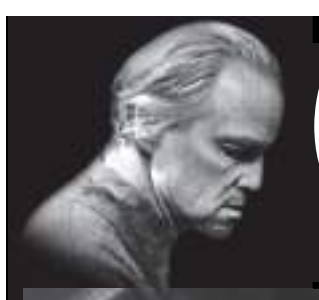

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STUDY

From Page 1

my stands to lose approximately 44 percent of its real Gross Domestic Product, 60 percent of its jobs and 45 percent of its real personal income by 2015.

"Unequivocally, this is a depression of great magnitude," the report states.

Under the relief scenario, the CNMI would see a loss of 9 percent in employment. The economy would see a gain of approximately 11 percent in real Gross Domestic Product, 7 percent in real personal income and 21 percent in per capita personal income.

"These do not represent strong growth rates, but they do not represent an economic depression either," it states.

Richard Pierce, the governor's special assistant for economic affairs and trade relations, said that, according to the report's findings, there is no doubt the CNMI is experiencing a downward turn in the economy. Pierce sought funding for the report and was primarily responsible for facilitating the necessary data.

"While definitions of recession and depression are somewhat arbitrary, the United States citizens in the Commonwealth are experiencing a worsening depression by any common understanding of the term," he said of the report's findings.

The Covenant establishes that the U.S. will help the CNMI government achieve a progressively higher standard of living as part of the economy of the United States. It also establishes that the United States will help develop the economic resources needed to meet the needs of a local self-government.

"This report suggests that the U.S. has not met this obligation," Pierce said.

He said the Covenant's federal application of the minimum wage and immigration changes is now destroying the CNMI economy.

"The Covenant worked very well in the first several decades of the CNMI…obviously, something has gone seriously wrong," Pierce said of the report's findings.

Federal lawmakers have had difficulty in determining what they should or could do to help territories like the Commonwealth develop.

"They are convinced, however, that the territories should be economically self-reliant of self-supporting. Even when, against all odds, the CNMI was able to establish a thriving garment and tourism industries, the federal government acted to decimate them," he said, summarizing the report's findings.

He added there have been deficiencies with U.S. territorial policy.

"There have been attempts to formulate programs that assist small communities in low-income or low-growth areas. However, Congress regularly deals with trade and investment policies in ways that harm the economic development prospects of the territories," he added.

The report was completed with a federal grant from the U.S. Interior Department. A request for proposals was placed and a team was chosen and contracted with the Office of the Governor.

Pierce said the report was not done to provide evidence for litigation that did not exist in 2006.

"If anything, it was meant to demonstrate that, by withdrawing any economic incentives that made the CNMI prosper from between 1984 and 2000, the exact opposite should be expected to occur," he said. "If some wage, labor and trade incentives built a booming economy on a small Pacific island in a matter of years, like gravity, the elimination of those incentives for development by those that supplied them has sent an economy in exactly the opposite direction by virtue of their disappearance."

The report already has achieved some of the reasons it was produced, Pierce said. Existing and potential investors to the CNMI are able to use the report to get a better understanding of the current economic situation with accurate information. The Strategic Economic Development Council will use the report to meet grant prerequisites for future economic development.

"This report will get mileage," Pierce said.

CUC

From Page 1

ing for the future by pursuing a dual approach—rehabilitation and privatization.

"There's a plan A and a plan B," he said. "If privatization of the generation fails because something goes wrong or some law is passed that eliminates the whole process, or we don't get any responses, we're still moving forward with rehabilitation. If we do the privatization and someone does respond, the improvements to the system will potentially be of value, because now the guy that's coming in, if he takes over the plant, will have less to spend. So the investment is there already and for that matter, the cost he needs to recover and so forth, is much less."

Here's a look at the current status of the two approaches:

Rehabilitation

As of last week, two engines— 6 and 8—were working at Power Plant 1 and producing 8 megawatts together. Power Plant 2 also was producing 2 megawatts. Power Plant 4, operated by the Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp., produces approximately 14 megawatts each day. Altogether, CUC's systems are producing approximately 24 megawatts of power. With the 15 additional megawatts from the Aggreko generators, the island has about 39 megawatts, enough to meet the island demand. For now.

"We're kind of in a standstill," Muña said.

CUC currently is waiting for the $3.8 million the utility company requested from the Office of Insular Affairs. That, on top of previous money received, should facilitate the rehabilitation work, he said.

"I think once we get the funding, the additional $3.8 million, and the remaining funding we have, [we'll] have a package of $5.4 million to work with, we'll be able to begin the process of this rehabilitation effort," Muña said.

CUC already has put out an expenditure plan, "but there are other issues to be resolved," he added.

Those issues include accounting for past OIA money that amounts to $9 million. CUC has reported on most of the money, Muña said, but there still are some contracts that need to be accounted for.

In December 2007, CUC signed a six-month contract with Guam-based DCM Group for $5.1 million. DCM was hired to repair seven of the eight engines at Power Plant 1. In July of this year, CUC terminated the contract after DCM failed to fix the engines. Muña has said CUC paid DCM $400,000 before the contract was terminated. CUC is still in talks with the company to come to terms with an agreement.

"We still are trying to work with the contractor to get that resolved," he said. He earlier said CUC did not want to file a lawsuit against DCM, and that the Attorney General's Office was handling negotiations with the company.

In 2006, CUC hired Commonwealth Industrial Supply Co. Inc. to rehabilitate its power engines at Power Plant 2. In July 2008, it was reported that CISCO's work was suspended, as only one engine had been made operational. But last month Muña said CUC and CISCO were reviewing the contract in order to get the agreed upon eight megawatts from the engines.

The contract was signed without soliciting bids or proposals from any other company. Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez approved the contract on May 14, 2006, according to the governor's state of emergency declaration.

Muña earlier disclosed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of the Public Auditor have been looking into the contracting arrangement between CUC and CISCO. The FBI is reportedly involved in the probe because the $885,000 used to pay CISCO came from the federal government.

"You know, I'm sure that's going to come up. Where are we on that?" Muña said of the contract's status.

In March 2007, OIA reprogrammed $250,000 to help repair the power system on Rota. This is another contract that needs to be closed, Muña said.

"That's been out there for a while," he said. "I think it's been out there for a couple of years, going on two years now."

When asked if OIA is requiring CUC to close the contracts before more money is awarded, the executive director said that is not necessarily the case, "but it's an issue that has been brought up that we need to address. But if we don't address it satisfactorily, it creates a situation that, as far as new monies go, you have to bring resolution to those issues, which isn't unreasonable. So that may delay the process. We need to punch through that."

As of last week, engine 3 at Power Plant 1 was out of commission, Muña said. He said repair costs would be about $30,000. CUC still owes the manufacturer, Man Diesel, money for prior work.

"We've got some CIP [Capital Improvement Project] funding issues. It is the system of satisfying the procurement requirement. We have submitted our billings. I think on Man's side, there are some requirements on their side to make sure they get paid. It's part of the process; there are certain requirements that off-island vendors still need to comply with that delay their payment situation. There is money there. It's just a compliance issue."

After CUC cancelled the $5.1 million DCM contract for Power Plant 1, it put out in July an emergency invitation to bid to repair engines 5 and 7. Two companies showed interest and visited the plant, Muña said, but they were ultimately unresponsive, so CUC has decided to repair the engines, contracting sections of the work to outside companies.

CUC also reportedly owes PMIC, which runs Power Plant 4, $1.5 million.

Privatization

Repeated efforts to privatize the utility corporation have been unsuccessful in the past, but on Oct. 2, Public Law 16-17—despite Gov. Benigno Fitial's earlier veto—was passed.

The law gives specific instructions on the bidding process. An invitation to bid must be used rather than a request for proposals. It also set the price tag of $250 million for the utility company.

But the law is expected to go through amendments before it is used as a guideline to privatize. A bill to remove the $250 million price tag is currently in the Legislature.

Muña has also been in talks with legislatures to define the term "United States certified contractor." CUC is required to hire a U.S. certified contractor to draft the invitation to bid. Another U.S. certified contractor is tasked with evaluating the bid.

"We can't get to first base," Muña said. "We need to decide who is a United States certified contractor. What is the definition? Who is this person?"

He added: "It's hard for me to say, pursuant to Public Law 16-17, I need a U.S. certified contractor. There's no USCC behind anybody's name. You know, right? It's not like a CPA. If I need a CPA I can go get a CPA. If you need a JD, well OK, no problem. If you need a chief financial planner to do this, well OK."

Fitial earlier vetoed the bill, saying the $250 million price tag would raise power rates.

Factoring in the $250-million price tag for the power system and CUC's expected monthly sales of 20 million kWh, and assuming a 10 percent return on investment and recovery of principal over a period of 40 years, the power rate could increase by 10 cents per kWh, Fitial said.

He also attacked the requirement for any contractor operating the plant to have five years experience in compliance with emission standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He said this may preclude international companies who have experience with power plant operations and capable of compliance, but not having five years experience, from bidding.

The provisions for the protection of CUC employees, according to Fitial, are overly broad and may lead to the successful bidder retaining even those employees who are not performing well.

Requiring CUC to obtain legislative consent before getting any loan over $500,000 would be an administrative burden to the utility, he added.

The governor also said that CUC's cash flow would suffer if residential customers are allowed to finance any outstanding account for up to one year. The same impact is expected if CUC is prohibited from disconnecting delinquent customers who are covered by the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

But proponents of the measure maintain that the legislation is urgently needed to avert an emergency declaration by the governor that would result in another sole source privatization contract. They also tout the prohibition of "requests for proposals" in the procurement process as one of the law's strengths. They note that a bidding process will prevent protests that hampered previous privatization efforts.

CUC BY THE DOLLARS

- $138.8 million: estimated collections from customers in 2009
- $110 million: amount charged to customers in 2008
- $91 million: amount collected in 2008
- $3.8 million: amount CUC is requesting from the Office of Insular Affairs
- $5.4 million: amount available for rehabilitation (with requested OIA funding)
- $9 million: amount of past money received from OIA, some of which needs to be accounted for
- $1.5 million: amount of money owed to PMIC (as of last week)
- $504,000: amount due to Aggreko Nov. 12 (overdue as of last week)
- $504,000: amount due to Aggreko Dec. 12
- $250,000,000: current price tag for CUC under PL 16-17

Some of the contracts needing to be resolved or completed:

- $5.1 million DCM contract for 7 of 8 engines at PP 1
- $885,000 CISCO contract for PP 2 engines
- $250,000 contract for Rota's power system

NMI

From Page 1

would not qualify for the United States' investor visa categories once local immigration is federalized next year.

The DHS' regulation abstract notes that the CNMI had approximately 500 registered foreign investors in 2006 and 2007. Citing a report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, the abstract says these foreign investors and long-term business permit holders invested at least $72 million in the CNMI in the past two years.

"This proposed regulation attempts to mitigate potential harm to the CNMI economy before the CNMI foreign investors are required to convert into United Status immigrant or non-immigrant visa classifications," states the DHS document.

It adds, "The regulation is intended to assist CNMI investment permit holders to convert from their current status to a status covered under the [federal immigration law] during the transition period while considering their contributions to the well-being of the CNMI economy.

"The proposed regulation attempts to reduce the risk of losing substantial investments by including a majority of CNMI's current investor categories under the new E2 CNMI classification."

According to the Legislature's resolution, there are approximately 500 permits issued to foreign investors in the commonwealth. Foreign investment provided direct tax revenues to the CNMI government of nearly $19.5 million in 2006 and over $16.5 million in 2007—about 10 percent of total government revenues in each of those years.

Foreign investors own or control over $500 million in assets in the Northern Marianas. Combined, their companies provide jobs to over 1,700 U.S. citizens and their immediate relatives, representing 13 percent of the U.S. citizens and immediate relative workforce in the CNMI.

2 hurt in car smashup in front of church

Two persons were injured during a vehicular accident in front of the San Vicente Church last Nov. 10, according to the Department of Public Safety, which released the report only yesterday.

DPS acting spokesman Jason Tarkong said that Marjorie Arugay suffered laceration to the head that required four stitches and abrasion to the elbow and front right knee.

Tarkong said Robert Camacho complained of pain in the hip and back.

Tarkong said a traffic investigator found Camacho at fault for failure to maintain his right half of the highway.

He said that on Nov. 10 at 6:51am police received a call about an auto accident in front of the San Vicente Church.

When a police officer arrived at the scene, a red 1993 Toyota Corolla, which had major damage to the front portion, was seen resting on the southbound lane.

About 20 feet away was a white 2000 Toyota Tacoma pickup resting on its passenger side.

The officer saw the car's driver, Arugay, being assisted by Camacho, who was the driver of the truck. Camacho was trying to control the bleeding on Arugay's head by applying pressure with a T-shirt.

An ambulance transported both Arugay and Camacho to the Commonwealth Health Center for further treatment.

Tarkong said the road was wet and slippery due to rainy weather. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

VISA

From Page 1

administration, the Legislature and the Marianas Integrated Immigration Task Force noted that the document, which appears on the federal government's www.regulations.gov website, is an abstract and not the final regulation.

"However, if this is an insight into the regulation, we have reason to be gravely concerned," the local government and business leaders said. "Unless China and Russia are officially included in the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program—which is what is being considered in these regulations—the CNMI economy will be damaged. Chinese and Russian tourists are of crucial importance to the islands' economy."

The local officials also took issue with the economic impact that the DHS has indicated in its regulatory plan. They said the China and Russia markets contribute nearly $200 million to the local economy, not the "grossly understated" $6 million that was stated in the DHS document.

Under current local rules, tourists from Russia and China have access to the CNMI without a visa. The DHS' regulatory plan indicates that, despite the significant economic benefits, this policy will have to change when the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program, as provided in the new immigration law, goes into effect in June 2009.

The document states that visitors from Russia and China, as well as other countries not included in either the existing U.S. Visa Waiver Program or the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, must apply for U.S. visas, which require in-person interviews at U.S. embassies or consulates and higher fees than the CNMI currently assess for its visitor entry permits.

The CNMI administration and private sector note that the abstract "would seem to run completely contrary to the intent of the [new immigration law]," which mandates the U.S. government to apply the statute with minimal adverse affects to the Commonwealth.

The law says, "In recognition of the Commonwealth's unique economic circumstances, history, and geographical location, it is the intent of the Congress that the Commonwealth be given as much flexibility as possible in maintaining existing businesses and other revenue sources, and developing new economic opportunities…."

The DHS, for its part, says the country eligibility requirements set for the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program takes into account the intent of the immigration act and the nation's current border security needs.

Tinian official nabbed for alleged domestic violence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police arrested on Monday the Tinian Health Center resident director for alleged domestic violence.

Henry Ernie U. Hofschneider, 52, was taken to the Superior Court on Saipan Monday afternoon for charges of assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and interfering with a domestic violence report.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman allowed Hofschneider to post a bail of $500 cash and a $2,000 unsecured bond for his temporary release.

Wiseman set the arraignment for Dec. 12. Attorney Joey P. San Nicolas represented the defendant.

Detective Barbara K. Arend stated in her report that on Oct. 2, 2008, a minor called Tinian DPS 911 at 3:10am for someone to pick up her mother, who was reportedly drunk.

A police officer arrived at the house and the victim told the officer that she was having a painful headache and was feeling drowsy. The victim also showed the officer a bump on the left side of her head.

When the police talked to the minor, she related that she woke up to the sound of her parents arguing in the living room. The minor allegedly saw Hofschneider slapping her mother and pushing the victim hard.

Hofschneider told his daughter to go back to her room.

The victim told the daughter to call the police, but Hofschneider prevented her from doing so, saying her mother was just drunk.

The minor went into the room and dialed 911, but she did not send the call because her father came in and told her not to do so.

When Hofschneider left the room, the minor locked the door and called 911 for police assistance.

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Rotary, LaoLao resort treat *man'amko* to meals

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan treated the *man'amko* to a lunch buffet yesterday at the Office on Aging.

The Rotarians also provided the senior citizens with free raffle tickets that won them assorted gift items.

Office on Aging director Howard I. Macaranas said this gift-giving is a way of recognizing the senior citizens' importance in the community.

Rotarians have been doing this every year. Last year, they donated a digital camera and a computer printer.

This year the club promised to repair the center's Bingo machine, which has been non-operational for quite some time now.

Rotary president Ben Tenorio said they would also supply the center with Bingo cards and slots.

"This has always been a significant event for us during this Thanksgiving week," Tenorio said.

In return, the *man'amko* presented the Rotarians with a plaque of appreciation.

Later in the afternoon, the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort management hosted the *man'amko* to a dinner in Kagman. Macaranas said this was the first time the resort donated to the *man'amko*.

Last week, Fiesta Resort and Spa also treated the elderly to lunch.

Macaranas said the business community's support to the senior citizens is multiplying.

"We are very thankful to them. There is a need to remind the younger generations that the senior citizens are valuable to the community," Macaranas said.

There are over 300 senior citizens in the CNMI who avail of the center's services.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Saipan Rotary Club members receive a plaque of appreciation from the *man'amko*. Office on Aging director Howard I. Macaranas hands over the plaque to Rotary president Ben Tenorio.

Gold's Gym offers free 'Weekend of Fitness'

To help community members recover from overeating on Thanksgiving Day and to kick off a healthy holiday season, Gold's Gym Saipan is turning the three days after Thanksgiving into a free weekend of fitness starting on "Trim the Fat Friday," Nov. 28, through Sunday, Nov. 30.

This Friday morning, Gold's Gym is opening its doors free to the public in an effort to help CNMI residents burn off calories from their Thanksgiving feasts. Gold's Gym trainers and nutrition experts will be on hand to offer guests free group exercise classes as well as workout tips and advice throughout the weekend.

Gold's Gym is offering this free weekend of fitness to encourage CNMI residents to make exercise a priority so they can stay fit and healthy during this busy time of year. Participants will later have an opportunity to join Gold's Gym at a special rate to continue their commitment to staying healthy.

All adults, age 18 and older, and youth ages 16 to 18 (with parent's consent), are welcome to participate in this free Weekend of Fitness.

Hours of operation on Friday are from 5:30am to 9am. On Saturday, it's 8am – 6pm, and on Sunday, 12pm – 5pm.

There will be a free 1-hour group exercise classes, BodyPump, on Friday at 8:30am and 6:30pm and on Saturday at 8:30am. Free BodyStep classes will be on Friday at 5:30pm and Saturday at 9:30am

Free assistance from certified trainers is on Friday from 8am to 8pm and on Saturday from 8am to 6pm.

For more information, call Gold's Gym Saipan at 233-4000; or email goldsgym@saipan.com. ***(PR)***

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NMI's economic census to be released in '09

The United States Census Bureau says the 2007 Economic Census report for the U.S. territories will be released next year.

The Census Bureau says the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' report will be released in March, and reports for American Samoa and Guam will be released in May.

American Samoa's 2007 Economic Census was carried out late last year.

The Economic Census of American Samoa, taken every five years, provides statistics used for developing the economic policies and successful business planning.

The CNMI Department of Commerce announced last year that business owners are required by law to answer the 2007 American Samoa census forms.

The Economic Census results identify business trends and measure economic growth.

Government, businesses and individuals use the American Samoa Economic Census data for planning and market development.

Information collected in the 2007 Economic Census includes the number of employees, payroll, and the types and value of goods and services provided by businesses during 2007. ***(RNZI)***

Organizers ready for 8th Don't Be A Turkey walk

Organizers are now ready to hold the 8th annual "Don't Be A Turkey" Walk this weekend, Nov. 29, at the Garapan basketball court.

Registration will start at 6am and the walk is set at 7am. The minimum registration fee is $10.

The event is organized by the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition, Ayuda Network Inc., Diabetes Prevention and Control Program and SAIWAI, to promote physical activity and raise funds for the diabetes coalition.

Funds raised will be used to support the mission to bring about diabetes awareness and education in the community.

Participants will receive a t-shirt upon meeting the minimum registration fee.

There will be free glucose and blood pressure screening onsite.

For more information, contact Ayuda Network Inc. 322-7469 or the Office of Diabetes Prevention and Control Program at 664-4030. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Guam Guidebook marks first year

HAGATNA, Guam—The United Services Organization Guam and A3 Ink, Corp. are proud to announce the 1-year anniversary of the Only On Guam Guide-Magazine, a premier guidebook for the island's military and newcomer audiences.

The blended concept of guide and magazine has succeeded over the past year in promoting local organizations and businesses, sharing Guam's unique history and culture, and depicting the essence of the island's "Only On Guam" idiosyncrasies.

Researched and written by many of Guam's talented writers, the OOG Guide-Magazine is a combination of feature stories and in-depth guides to Guam's dining, recreation, shopping, and entertainment industries, which translates into a handy and versatile publication for all users.

The OOG Guide-Magazine concept evolved from the realized need for Guam to have a true comprehensive guidebook that would highlight the island in its entirety.

Leigh Graham, director of Guam USO, states, "The OOG guidebook allows USO staff and volunteers to better serve the thousands of Guam military personnel and family members who come to the USO looking for information about our island. Its handy, compact size, and easily-referenced content helps us to quickly inform newcomers about the many wonderful things there are to do on our beautiful island."

The complimentary OOG guidebook is available throughout the island at the Guam USO and key military and newcomer locations. For more information, email contact@onlyonguamguide.com ***(PR)***

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BRUCE L. MAILMAN
CNMI BAR ASSN #F0153
MAILMAN & KARA, LLC
PMB 238, Box 10,000,
Saipan, MP 96950-8900
Telephone: 233-0081
Facsimile: 233-0090

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LPP MORTGAGE, LTD., Plaintiff, -v- JAMES A. ADA AND ELIZABETH S. ADA, Defendants.	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-0354 **FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on June 5, 2007, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants James A. Ada and Elizabeth S. Ada in and to the following properties located in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

TRACT 22512-2 AND TRACT 22512-1-RI (MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS TRACT 22512-2 AND TRACT 22512-1-R1, SAN VICENTE VILLAGE, SAIPAN, MP 96950), containing an area of 2,592 square meters, more or less, as shown in the subdivision Survey plan of Tract 22512, DLS Check No. 211/92, recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office on March 18, 1992 as file no. 92-908, Book 5, Page 162 and in the subdivision Survey Plat of Tract 22512-1, DLS Check No. 2055/96, recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office on February 9, 1996 as File No. 96-354, Book 8, Page 10.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on December 10, 2008, at the hour of 3:30 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2 d Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated, Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. Court Approval. Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 21st day of November, 2008:

/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

BRUCE L. MAILMAN
CNMI BAR ASSN #F0153
MAILMAN & KARA, LLC
PMB 238, Box 10,000,
Saipan, MP 96950-8900
Telephone: 233-0081
Facsimile: 233-0090

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LPP MORTGAGE, LTD., Plaintiff, -v- VICENTE I. TEREGEYO JING YU GUAN STEPHANSON, Defendants.	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0111 **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on November 13, 2008, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants Vicente I. Teregeyo and Jing Yu Guan Stephanson in and to the following properties located in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

LOT 005 1 320, containing an area of 965 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 005 107 dated September 30, 1983.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on December 10, 2008, at the hour of 3:30 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2 d Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

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a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated, Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. Court Approval. Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 17th day of November, 2008:

/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

Federalization talks at SCC meeting

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be having its general membership meeting on Dec. 3 at the Saipan World Resort.

The speakers will be Bruce Mailman and Maya Kara of member firm Mailman & Kara. Their presentation will be on the impact of federalization of immigration of the CNMI work force.

This meeting coincides with the Chamber's Student Career Exploration Day, which provides an opportunity for today's employers to meet tomorrow's employees and help them explore what opportunities may exist, aside from joining the government payroll or moving off island. This year, the Chamber has 79 students and 42 Chamber member organizations participating.

Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. As usual, the meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for general public.

The meeting's speakers, Mailman and Kara, have been developing, and will share with Chamber members, strategies to allow employers to maximize their ability to retain foreign national workers after June 1, 2009. There are various categories of non-U.S. citizens who are currently legally living and working in the CNMI who will be out of status after that date. The loss of these persons will have a severely negative impact on the workforce and the community.

Some of the categories of persons whose legal status will be wiped out by the implementation of federalization are:

- Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens;
- Immediate relatives of permanent residents;
- Immediate relatives of FAS citizens;
- CNMI permanent residents;
- Widows and widowers of U.S. citizens and permanent residents; and
- Immediate relatives of citizens of American Samoa.

Members of some of these categories may be eligible for U.S. permanent residency ("green card") and some will not. Because by U.S. mainland standards the number of persons in each of these categories may be small, it is uncertain that the federal authorities will provide for them in the upcoming regulations that will implement the law. ***(PR)***

MCS presents Christmas classic

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club will be presenting a musical adaptation of the classic holiday film by Frank Capra *It's A Wonderful Life* on Dec. 5 and 6 at the Saipan World Resort.

The performance on Dec. 5 will be a dinner show and will cost $35 per person. Doors open at 5:30pm, while dinner will be at 6pm. Showtime is at 7pm.

On Dec. 6, there will be no dinner so the entrance fee will just be $7 for adults and $5 for children 12 and under. Doors open at 6pm and showtime starts at 7pm.

Both performances will be held at the Saipan World Resort's Taga Ballroom.

Tickets are now available at the Mount Carmel School Business Office or from cast and crew members.

ON THE NET
www.mcstheatreclub.blogspot.com
www.mtcarmel-edu.net

Due to limited seating, advance purchase of tickets is recommended. Check out the Theatre Club blog at www.mcstheatreclub.blogspot.com. For more information, call 234-6184 or visit www.mtcarmel-edu.net. ***(PR)***

ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION (RCGC)
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 1547 ROTA, MP 96951

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, the RCGC's regular monthly meeting will be held as follows:

DATE : Wednesday, November 26, 2008
TIME : 3:00 P.M.
LOCATION : Tatachog Public Library Annex Building

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Adoption of Agenda
IV. Adoption of minutes
V. Chairman's Report
VI. Old Business
1. Casino Consultant
VII. New Business
1. RCGC Funding
VIII. Miscellaneous
IX. Adjournment

**At anytime during meeting, the commission may move to executive session.*

Diego M. Songao
Chairman

_____
Date

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

November 26,1998

Deficit rises to $53M

CNMI's cumulative deficit almost doubled to approximately $53 million in FY 1997 compared to the previous fiscal year, and Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio feared this could lead to a financial collapse of the government. The figure reflects an increase of $21 million in deficit incurred by the previous administration in FY 1996 at $32 million under former governor Froilan C. Tenorio. According to the incumbent governor, the amount was based on the independent single financial audit of Deloitte&Touche which is now under review by the Office of the Public Auditor.

Reyes slams Benavente for 'shaky knees'

Senate Floor leader Pete P. Reyes yesterday accused House Speaker Diego T. Benavente of bowing to federal pressure over his insistence to limit operations of the garment industry in the Northern Marianas in the wake of worsening economic crisis on the island. "We have to take care of our own problem. They (federal officials) dont care about us... If we die, they will just watch us," the senator told reporters in an interview. Reyes was reacting to a statement from the House speaker warning of federal takeover of local immigration and labor control should the Senate pass a legislation that will cap foreign work force in the garment sector and allow what he considers hiring of 600 additional employees.

November 26,1999

Loving and living with the disease

When the family of Moses Saburo learned that he was infected with HIV, they were shocked and devastated. In the first place, older sister Faustina and Moses made them believe that he's suffering from cancer after he returned from the mainland. It was only during a family gathering two months ago that Faustina and Moses, who are the closest among the siblings, revealed to the whole clan that their younger brother was HIV positive. After guarding his deepest secret for two years, Moses, 39, felt like a huge concrete slab was taken off his chest. His family rallied behind him and encouraged him to come forward to stir people's awareness on the deadly disease.

Investigation of Judge Bellas sought

Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas has come under fire anew from his arch-critic, Representative-elect Stanley T. Torres, who wants him investigated for alleged improprieties, conflicting duties, extra-judicial and political activities. In a letter to acting Attorney General Maya B. Kara and Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, Torres urged the two officials to take disciplinary action against Judge Bellas for misconduct in office. Mr. Torres cited five instances over the past two years in which the judge allegedly violated standards as member of the CNMI Judiciary, including his campaign activity in the Nov. 6 elections where he was up for retention vote.

November 26, 2001

Salary hike suspended

Declining revenues prompted the Civil Service Commission to suspend certain mandatory salary increases for government employees, as part of the austerity measure implemented by the administration of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. Saying that the situation calls for an emergency, the Commission has come up with a rule that suspended provisions in the Personnel Service System Rules pertaining to mandatory salary increases. The measure covers civil servants in different CNMI government agencies, including the Department of Labor and Immigration, which circulated a memorandum to its offices last week in connection with the emergency rule.

NMI included in Feds' $100M

A $100-million promotional grant for tourism may soon be made available to all states and territories of the United States, including the CNMI, as an added stimulus to an industry that is seeing all-time lows due to the 9/11 tragedy. A bill has been introduced at the US House of Representatives that seeks to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to issue grants to states and territories to be used for advertising that stimulates economic activity by promoting travel and tourism. House Resolution 3321, which was introduced by Rep. Mark Foley, has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Proklamasion

Edukasion guiya i fundamenton nila'la' gi halom familia yan I famaguonta I mas tagkilo na mina gi halom tano'ta.

Edukasion nesesario na pati gi halom tanota. I ofinan Eskuelan Pupliko esta anasangi un mes gi Nobembre para uma selebra I maulek na produkton estudianti, taotao ni man-mananague, ayudantin maestro yan maestro, ayudantin ofisina, man magas eskuela, yan todo taotaota gi halom komunidad ni man gaige gi halom membron island communities yan kontodo I man magasta gi halom siuda pot I kontribusion niha gi halom ineyak edukasion pupbliko.

I mes Edukasion para u na guahayi oputunidad para eskuelan pupbliko para u na guaha mas mensahi para I pupbliko pot bandan edukasion pupbliko gi leksion academic yan hafa na ineyak para gai-tiningo I patgon, taimano machogueña yan ekspirensia nu i hayo siha na petsonas ni man guehalom gi tiningo edukasion.

I mes Edukasion para u nahi bentaha I man gai-tiningo yan ekspirensia gi un patin leksion yan ineyak ni siña ha ekstendi guato para leksion empleao eskuelan pupbliko yan para guaha mas bentaha gi asunton komunikasion, ineyak yan inatungo idean uno yan I otro pot edukasion famaguonta gi halom Noti Marianas.

Asi komo, I Eskuelan Pupbliko ni mafana'an CNMI Public School System ni mana guahayi gi halom Amendasion Konstitusion ni mahalok Constitutional Amendment No. 38 efektibo Enero 11, 1988 komo Education Act of 1988.

Asi komo, I Eskuelan Pupbliko guiya I state education agency para preschool, elementario, yan secondary para estudanti ni man gaige I sais (6) años esta desi sais (16) años, kontodo espisiat na programa era I early childhood education program ni tineteka I patgon anai mafañago esta tres pat kuatro años; yan

Asi komo, I Eskuelan Pupbliko PSS man hongge gi fiñanaguen famaguon na gof impotanti I primera na leksion na I patgon u tungu kumentos, umekungok, manaitai, yan man-nugi kontodo I finanaguen kostumbre gi respeto na manera dumadanna yan I leksion I patgon; yan

Asi komo, I Eskuelan Pupbliko PSS man honge gi para mana guahayi lugat pat kampo ni taya uma diskrimina gi oppotunnidad ineyak eskuela; yan

Asi komo, I Eskuelan Pupbliko PSS man honge ni para hu na guaha programa ni maas enteresao I patgon ni leksiona yan u guaha mas kinenprendin ni kutturan Chamorro yan Refaluwasch yan kuturan otro pumalon taotao gi tanota.

Asi komo, I Eskuelan Pupbliko a rekonisa todo maestro yan maestro, ayudantin eskuela yan ofisina, kontodo administradod eskuela pot omidin niha para edukasion famaguon yan hobensito siha; yan

Asi komo, I State Board of Education man gi niha nu I malago niha ni para una setbi I hafa guaha gi halom siuda, entalo I maestro yan maestro, ayudantin ofisina yan eskuela para u guaha mas takkilo na kualidad edukasion; yan

Asi komo, I Komisionan Eskuelan Pupbliko yan I man gachonña mana guahayi guinifi (vision), hafa para machogue (mission), yan hafa inengen niha (philosophy) I halom eskuelan pupbliko pot para uma implementa I High Student Performance, Highly qualified personnel, effective and efficient operations and safe and Orderly., yan

Asi komo, I komiten Steering Executive Education esta a planuyi yan ana guaha siglon aktibidad para uma rekonnisa I man kualidad na che'cho Eskuelan Pupbliko, I famalia yan man gachong PSS ni man saunao gi kontribusion minaulek eskuelan pupbliko yan I man magasta gi halom siuda ni ma sota I tiempon niha para minaulek famaguonta ya makombibida todo residentin CNMI para ufan naonao gi selebrasion gi kada eskuela.

Pues pago ni gaige I presto, guaho, si Benigno R. Fitial, Gobietnon Commonwealth gi Noti Marianas, ginen I atoridad ni manaeyo gi halom Konstitusasion yan lai Commonwealth of the Noti Marianas, hu proklama I mes Nobembre 2008 na mes Eskuelan Pupbliko (Public School System Education Month) ya

Nobembre 24, 25, 26, 2008 komo Education Day

Gi halom Saipan, Tinian, yan Rota ya hu yayama atension taotao Commonwealth na uma respeta este na mes Nobembre 2008 ya una guahayi programa aktibida, seremonias ni a sapopota pago na sakkan na theme "Join the Band of Education and March to Success."

I atoridad ni manaiyo, u fitma este na dokumento ya I seal Commonwealth Noti Marianas u gaige gi este na ha'ane 31st dia Oktubre 2008.

Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

Arongorong

Ammeleite nge ii mille ayoora arepi me akkabwungul meeta mellól falúw kka falawasch Commonwealth. Nge eew sowar ye eghi aschenge-scheng mellól falúw kkaal nge attel meleitei.

Ammeleiteiy nge e bwáu bwe e ghi llang maghuttughuttul llól yaasch malau meleemw. Imwal akkabwungul toulap (Public School System) e ayoora eew maram llól Nobembre bwe rebwe asora me abwáritá alangal ghatchúúr attel meleitei, schóól akkabwung, schóól alillis mellól imwal akkabwung (aides), me towlap ikka re afeliir llól alangal sóóbw. Public School System e bwal mengiir me abwáritá alongal imwal akkabwung, me samwolul sóóbw ikka rebwe allillislong llól imwal akkabwung.

Maramal Ammeleitey ebwe mweiti ngeli Public School System bwe ebwe ayoora maas Arongorong ngeliir towlap reel meeta imwal akkabwung e ghal fééri, meeta ye ebwe yoora ngeli maas aschischi fengel llól alongal falúw kka llól setil pasifikko, wóól alongal falúw me ebwe bwal ayoora aschischilong mereer toulap.

Bweigha, Allegh Lapalap ye #15 me 1 CMC SECTION 2251 et.sq. of 1988 e ayoratá Northern Mariana Islands Public School System nge e ffateló wóól Enero 11, 1988 ye re ghal ira bwe Education Act of 1988 me

Bweigha, Public School System e úú bwe ii mille state education agency e lemeli preschool, elementary me secondary reel atte kka raa lo llól oloow (6) mwetengeli seeigh me oloow (16) nge e bwal toolong special programs llól early childhood education igha schagh re laili atte we mwetengeli eluuw me faawu raghil me

Bweigha, Public School System e lughulugh bwe reel akkabwungul yáát nge ebwe bweletá reel meeta ye yáát resáál ghukkule (síbwe ira ngere Aregheregh, iisch, asseling, me kkepas) me mwóghuttughuttul atte we me

Bweigha, Public School System e lughulugh reel ebwe ayoora akkabwungul meeta llól imwal akkabwung nge esóbw bwal yoor malle rebwe apetti bwe ebwe weewe ló schagh alonger schóól akkabwung me

Bweigha, Public School System e lughulugh reel ebwe ayoora akkabwung kka yáát rebwe afeschi rebwe akkabwung me ebwe yoor akkabwun-gul kko kka e weweti aramasal falúw me bwal kko kka eew masamasal falúw re kke yáál: me

Bweigha, Public School System e bwal awóór alonger schóól akkabwung, schóól alillis me samwolul imwal akkabwung reel aar appilughulugh me aschooscho reel akkabwung yáát me yaleyal: me

Bweigha, State Board of Education e mwuschel bwe ebwe yááyá meeta kka emmwel toulap ebwe allillislong bwe PSS emmwel ebwe toori ghatchúl mellangal tool akkabwung ngeliir attel meleitei: me

Bweigha, Samwolul Akkabwungul Towlap PSS me schelal re bwungiw fengelli eew woorl/mengemeng (Vision), meeta rebwe fééri (Mission) me aal apilughulugh (philosophy) bwe rebwe ayoora meeta kka re apayú aal mengemeng wóól (priorities) langal aar yáát leksion (high student performance), ghatchúl schóól angaang llól PSS (highly qualified personnel), E ghatch mwóghuttughuttul bwulasiyol (effective and efficient operations), me ese amasagh imwal me bwuleyil akkabwung, and safe and orderly schools; me

Bweigha, Komisinaal Akkabwungúl Towlap me Samwolul Public School System re ayoora Mengemeng ló mmwal (vision), Meeta rebwe ayoora (mission), apilughulughul meeta akkabwung bwe e ghi llang yaar yáát akkabwung, re ghi angaghatch schóól akkabwung, e ghi ghatch mwoghuttughuttul alongal akkabwung, ese yoor alléwal, me e welepagh fengel me

Bweigha, schóól Executive Education Steering Committee aa takkal planoow meeta kka rebwe ayoora bwe rebwe abwarilo meeta Public School System aa takkal fééri reel ghatchúl aar yáát akkabwung ye samwolul sóóbw re bwal aschischilong rekke arongóór towlap me faffaingiir bwe rebwe tooto fiti seremoniyas ikka ebwe lo llól imwal akkabwung reel Education Day.

Iwe Ighila, Ngaang, BENIGNO R. FITIAL, Sów Lemelem Commonwealth llól teel faluw kka mereel Allégh Lapalapal Commonwealth re mweti ngeli yáy wakkey bwe ibwe mwákki schéél tiliighi yeel bwe ebwe ffatteló bwe maramal Nobember 2008 bwe

Maramal Ammeleiyil Towlap
Nobembre 24, 25, 26, 2008
Ammeleiteyil Towlap

Llól teel faluw kka Seipél, Luuta, Tchiliyól me I arongóór aramasal Commonwealth bwe rebwe awói maram ye Nobember 2008 rebwe ayoora ukkur, me seremoniyasal attel leeimw me rebwe tabwei theme yeel" "Join the Band of Education and March to Success." (Fiti Schuulapal Ammeleitey me Ghatchúl")

Ulumwemi, I mwekkili wóól tilighi yeel nge ebwe lo seal Commonwealth reel isla kka e lo afeng llól Marianas.wóól 31st ráál Oktubre 2008.

Benigno R. Fitial
Sów Lemelem

Happy Education Day and Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families!

Greetings from the
CNMI State Board of Education and Commissioner of Education

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

An unfair litmus test

Some ardent supporters of Barack Obama are aggrieved because the president-elect's emergent national security team includes supporters of the Iraq war, which Obama famously opposed. Making opposition to the war a litmus test for service in the new administration would be both unfair and impractical.

It would indeed be troubling if the new president were turning to figures who subscribed to some of the extreme justifications for the 2003 invasion, such as the notion that Saddam Hussein had a role in 9/11 or a simplistic conviction that Iraq could painlessly be transformed into a U.S.-style democracy. Both theories, cherished by so-called neoconservatives, have been discredited. In the exceedingly unlikely event that individuals with such views put themselves forward for positions in the Obama administration, they should be prepared for rejection.

Yet many in Congress who voted to authorize President Bush to use force in Iraq—including 81 Democrats in the House and 22 in the Senate—did so for other reasons. Some were nobler than others. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's yes vote probably was influenced by a fear that opposition to the war would harm a future campaign by her for the presidency. Still, Clinton and others who supported the Authorization of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution had been warned by experts, not all of them in the Bush administration, that Saddam likely possessed weapons of mass destruction. This fear, fueled by the dictator's past use of such weapons, wasn't confined to Congress or to neoconservatives in the administration.

Granted, most Democrats in the House and almost half of those in the Senate opposed the resolution, some because they doubted that Bush was sincere in promising to continue to seek a peaceful end to Iraq's conflict with the United Nations. Outside Congress, the resolution was opposed by many in the media (including this editorial page) and by state and local officials such as Obama.

Many Obama supporters have committed to memory what he said on Oct. 2, 2002: "I know that even a successful war against Iraq will require a U.S. occupation of undetermined length, at undetermined cost, with undetermined consequences. I know that an invasion of Iraq without a clear rationale and without strong international support will only fan the flames of the Middle East and encourage the worst, rather than best, impulses of the Arab world, and strengthen the recruitment arm of al-Qaida."

Prescient words, but reasonable people disagreed with them. Or they thought that the alternative to military action—an Iraq capable of unleashing chemical or biological weapons on its neighbors—was the worse evil. Some of those people agree unreservedly with Obama's vision of this country's role in the world. For him to treat them as pariahs would be inconsistent with his pledge of a forward-looking administration.

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Rise and fall in the Land of Change

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT *Creating economic success for the CNMI*

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

A Fairy Tale from the History Book of the Future

"What happened to all the money, mommy?" little Johnny asked.
"The truth is, honey," she replied, "there WAS no money."

It's All Make-Believe

Once upon a time, a thing called money was developed to represent things. In olden times, if you wanted to get a cow, you would have to find a farmer with a cow that he wanted to trade, and trade him your two goats—since that was the going value of a cow. But what if you *didn't* have two goats? Well, perhaps cow-farmer Brown would accept 500 eggs for his one cow. But what if farmer Brown didn't really like or want eggs? Oh, heavens. Things just got so messy for farmer Brown, goat-herder Thomas, chicken-rancher Evans and everyone in the town. What on earth would they do?

Well, on the other side of town, economist Smith came up with a great idea.

"What if we create this thing called 'money,'" he suggested, "that we use to represent the cows, and the goats and the eggs? Then, you could sell your 500 eggs at $1/egg to anyone for this thing called money and you would receive $500. Then you could use that $500 to buy two goats at $250 each, or one cow for $500. Now, you don't have to raise chickens or raise goats to get a cow, you can sell practically ANYTHING you have that someone else wants, and you can have this money thing to buy practically ANYTHING *you* want! And they all agreed that they would accept this money thing in place of the eggs and cows and goats."

And here's the greatest part: The money was "backed" by gold. In other words, no one could get a dollar—none could be created—unless there was a fixed amount of actual gold in the bank of the land that represented that dollar. So, at any time you wanted, you could simply trade your dollar for an actual nugget of gold and have something of real value that just about anyone the world over would recognize and accept. Money backed by gold! It was a brilliant idea.

But then, something sinister happened. Someone decided to introduce something called a "fiat" currency, and instead of money based on tangible assets like gold, currency then became simply pieces of paper or coins backed by confidence in a country. In other words, that paper dollar was worth a dollar simply because the government said so. Your faith alone in the government is what was backing the currency.

Without the need for gold or silver or other tangible assets, money became the easily manipulated numbers on a balance sheet; ones and zeros in a computer. It became something that could be created at the drop of a hat, placed into circulation, thus inflating or deflating the economy at will, manipulating the masses and moving wealth from the many to the few.

In this new age of the fiat currency, "Tangible assets became the "mortal enemy" of the Fed-led central bankers....because if tangible assets become legitimate alternative stores and measures of value to the bankers' "Paper Assets" (i.e. treasury securities and fiat currencies), the bankers lose power, influence and profit." [from financialsense.com]

The Fatal Flaw

Once it became common practice to issue money that was not backed by anything real, tangible or of quantifiable value (like gold or silver), then all heck broke loose. Banks could lend money they didn't have. People could borrow money that didn't exist. Lenders could charge real interest on this *un-real* borrowed money (that they didn't really have in the first place), and repossess the *real* property of those who defaulted.

Corporations could expand and grow based on imagined wealth, by misrepresenting their true economic health. This unchecked and unnatural growth, and the greed it inspired, led to overpaid CEOs, underpaid and exploited workers, the rape of the earth's natural resources, an expectation of infinite growth based on finite resources, and unchecked consumerism. It was a system that was doomed from

See RISE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letter to the Editor

CNMI asking US to allow foreign fishing in waters around NMI

Last week it was announced that the CNMI's three-year marine conservation plan was approved by the federal government (*See Federal Register, Vol. 73, No. 200, Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008, Notices, page 61020*). This turns out to be some kind of development and should be a real eye-opener to those in favor (*and against*) the creation of a Mariana Trench Marine National Park for a couple of reasons.

For example, a marine conservation plan is required under federal law—the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act—before the governor of the Northern Mariana Islands can ask the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce and in consultation with the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, to negotiate and enter into a Pacific Insular Area Fishery Agreement.

A Pacific Insular Area Fishery Agreement would allow foreign commercial fishing within waters adjacent to the Northern Marian Islands in the federally controlled Exclusive Economic Zone. However, before a federal license/permit can be issued and foreign vessels can commercially fish in the waters around the Northern Mariana Islands, a marine conservation plan must be approved and contain a detailed description of how the funds to be collected from the foreign fishing company will be used.

According to one local news report, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Secretary Ignacio De la Cruz has stated that the CNMI's Marine Conservation Plan contains a provision which provides that funds raised from foreign commercial fishing will be used to pay for the Puerto Rico dump closure and park operations.

In other words, one portion of the CNMI's Marine Conservation Plan just approved plans to open up our waters to foreign vessels for fishing so that the money can be generated and used to pay for the Puerto Rico Dump closure and the proposed operations of a park over the old dump location.

To those in favor of the creation of marine national monument, this development is bad among other reasons because commercial fishing is one of the things they hoped to prevent from happening. To those against the creation of a monument (*but not necessarily in favor of opening up the waters around the CNMI islands to foreign commercial fishing*), this is also kind of bad because all the talk and arguments by this administration about retaining local control over these waters and helping local fishermen and not needing the federal government to protect our resources isn't exactly true.

The bigger point appears to be: This administration is using federal law to open the waters around the CNMI islands to foreign fishing. Accordingly, it would seem that this administration is not against the creation of a marine monument because it wants to prevent the federal government from taking control of these waters. Instead, it appears this administration is against the creation of a marine monument because it wants the federal government to issue commercial fishing licenses and permits to foreign countries and companies so that money can be raised to pay for costs associated with closure of the Puerto Rico dump and the building of a park.

Protecting local fishermen and local traditions or cultural ways are not the reason this administration opposes the creation of a Mariana Trench Marine National Monument. It would appear that money is the motivating factor. By the way, the amount of funding reported in one press release to be collected by the CNMI for selling to foreign companies the right to take fish in the waters around the CNMI Islands was reported to be $11 million, which one would have to guess is to be earned over the three-year life of the foreign fishing permits and going to be shared paying for other provisions contained in the CNMI's Marine Conservation Plan.

If you're against foreign fishing companies from taking the CNMI's fish, perhaps you should encourage all your elected officials to support creating a federally protected marine national park (just to be safe).

Wesley M. Bogdan
Papago, Saipan

RISE

From Page 10

its inception. That it even lasted so long was simply testament to the game of smoke and mirrors that those in control were able to perpetrate on the masses as things careened to their eventual demise.

Basic laws of supply and demand, production, exchange, value, as well as universal laws of cause and effect had been violated in the process. This was capitalism's fatal flaw.

The Fall

You've heard all the descriptions: *"a house of cards," "chickens coming home to roost," "paying the piper," "the day of reckoning."* Trite, perhaps, but highly appropriate to describe what happened next in the global economy. It was inevitable.

The rumblings had begun as early as the 1970s. There had been bailouts of the auto and banking industries before. But this time, the highest floors of the economic house of cards were just too precariously perched to be sustained.

Combined with the perfect storm of other economic conditions, what happened next is now history. The cards came tumbling down. Businesses based on the old paradigm started to crumble. There were layoffs. There were bankruptcies. Stocks plummeted. Prices of the basic necessities increased. The price of survival skyrocketed.

The Uprising

But then, despite, or perhaps because of the chaos, people finally "got" it. The fall of this brand of capitalism brought many formerly accepted and entrenched ideas into question, and made others undeniably obsolete in their flaws. And people woke up.

People realized that despite what they'd been led to believe, the direction in which we as a society had been heading—that we sometimes refer to as progress—was woefully, completely and spectacularly misguided. They realized they'd been lied to about practically everything they believed to be true.

Reggae singer Bob Marley had a posthumously released song titled *Who Colt the Game* (lyrics by Lee Scratch Perry). "Colt" is a Jamaican term in the game of dominoes that refers to the act of a player misplaying a card. No one catches the mistake, and everyone continues playing their cards according to the misplayed card, and when the error is eventually discovered, the game is said to be "colt."

Marley sings, "*somebody colt the game, and caused the world to follow."* That is exactly what had happened. In practically every field of life as we know it, certain people with insufficient information, inaccurate perceptions, incomplete world views, poor analytical skills, and sometimes simply evil intent, had arrived at conclusions based on erroneous assumptions and misguided motives which led to courses of action (misplayed cards) which *colt* the game for the rest of us. And we, with our faith invested, unknowingly and unwittingly followed along.

People quickly realized the simple truth that *"If your understanding of reality is flawed, you will not be able to make the best decisions for survival."* So people sought the truth about everything, not just in matters of the economy, but it spilled over into every area of their lives. From education, entertainment, medicine, economics, to new definitions of progress, spirituality, and survival, there was a massive resurgence of new ideas in what has since become known as "The Great Sheep Uprising."

The Growth of Self-Sufficiency

You've no doubt heard that *"you can't solve a problem with the same level of thinking that got you there."*

As the effects of capitalism's fatal flaw spread throughout the globe, and this new consciousness emerged, it became glaringly obvious to all but the greed-motivated few, that a new paradigm was not only necessary, but vital if the earth and its inhabitants were to survive. Across the globe, the self-sufficiency movement kicked into gear. What emerged from the chaos of the tumble is now legend.

On the basic survival front, people resisted the control of natural resources (like drinking water and seeds) by the multinational corporations. A new grassroots, green-conscious ethic called the "Multi-Natural Movement" emerged in its place.

Green Corporations formed as part of this multi-natural movement. But, unlike the corporations of old, mandated to put profit first, these multi-natural corporations created a global charter that began with the following:

"If the world is to be saved; if global warming is to be prioritized and addressed; if people are to live disease-free lives; if the rights and freedoms of all on the planet are to be honored and respected without exploitation; if we are to develop a workable understanding of ourselves, of others, of the natural universe, and of reality to be able to make better choices, then there must be a change in the way people currently think, communicate, act and do business..."

On the consumerism front, people retooled their lives, streamlined their needs, and curbed their appetites for excess. As a result, products based on faulty science, mere profit or status, fell out of favor.

On the health front, people finally accepted the connection between their deteriorating, seemingly random health and what they'd been using as food all their lives. People became healthier and less reliant on prescription drugs and even health insurance.

On the lifestyle front, people moved from claustrophobic urban centers to more rural areas where farming—pesticide-free, natural farming—increased. Organic farmers markets sprang up everywhere.

On the medical front, with prices skyrocketing, people's use of prescription drugs decreased. The masses reclaimed control of their health freedom and their right to choose their health treatments. The multinationals' plan to limit health-freedom, and restrict access to natural remedies and cures was thwarted.

On the career front, forced by massive layoffs to seek alternate streams of income, people started turning their passions into profit. There was a resurgence of entrepreneurial spirit as people created passion-centered businesses first in desperation, and then as an obvious component of happiness and self-actualization.

The New Economy

Yes, it was a glorious time! As people sought truth-based alternatives to the "house of cards lives" they'd been living, a new economy arose with new products based on new motivations, new mandates, a new commitment to sustainability and (a new definition of) progress.

As traditional carmakers folded, green fueled technologies and cars that had been suppressed were now in demand.

As drug companies reeled, cheaper, natural and real cures for sickness and disease that had been suppressed, now fell into favor.

Products and services that helped people live really better lives trumped those that were merely for show. Businesses were started to provide real value rather than imaginary status. People created incomes that satisfied their need rather than their greed.

It wasn't always a smooth transfer of power, however. As the various components of the old regime fell away, replaced by the new, people at first rejected it. But, slowly at first, as each new entrepreneur selling new ideas and products met with success, others joined the bandwagon.

They realized that all the fears and pronouncements of complete and utter disaster were exaggerated.

Yes, people would lose jobs, but they would look for or create new ones. Yes, businesses would close, but new ones would emerge to replace them.

Yes, things looked dire, but looking back, we now admit that the solutions were always there, always obvious, but were simply not easy given the unwillingness of those in power to share it, the reluctance of those *without* power to claim it, and the tendency of *both* to stick with the known rather than the unknown.

And so it always is in the Land of Change, that all things work for the good of all....and they lived happily ever after.

■■■■

Note: The African American Cultural Preservation Committee is calling for entries for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Essay and Elocution Contest. The topic this year is "What Would Martin Say?" All students in the CNMI are invited. See the www.blacksonsaipan.com website for details. Fliers are being distributed to the schools this week.

Note*: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

■■■■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

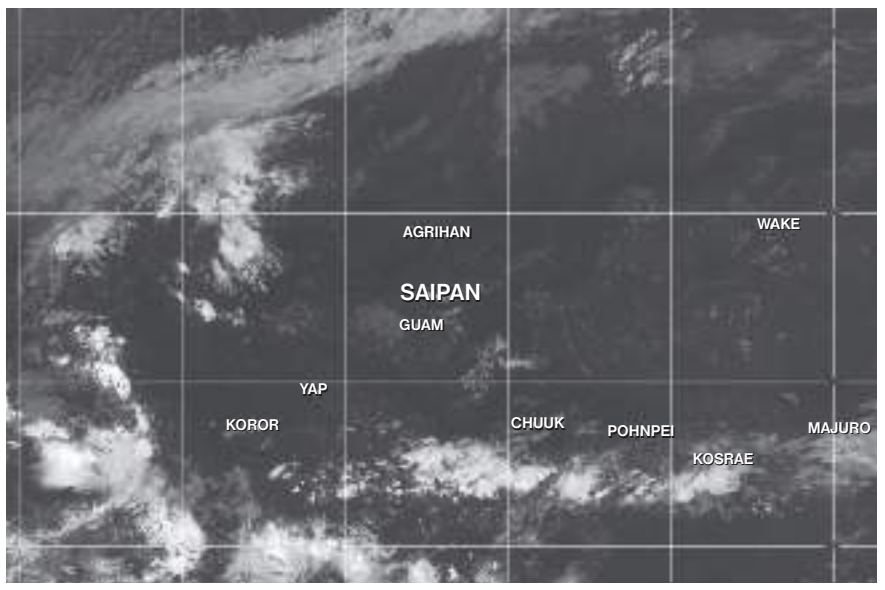
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼73
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲66	▼52
Beijing	Cloudy	▲45	▼25
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼66
Honolulu	Showers	▲81	▼72
London	Cloudy	▲51	▼43
Los Angeles	Showers	▲64	▼54
Manila	Showers	▲88	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲70	▼59
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼56
New York	Cloudy	▲45	▼35
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲58	▼43
Paris	Cloudy	▲45	▼39
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲57	▼42
Rome	Cloudy	▲53	▼32
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲51	▼34
San Francisco	Showers	▲59	▼48
Seoul	Showers	▲52	▼39
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼45
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲46	▼33

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, NOV. 25, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends southward from 24N133E to 16N133E with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 150 miles of the trough axis. An upper-level low near 13N146E is triggering widely scattered showers near the Mariana Islands within 75 miles of a line from 14N147E to 11N151E. Another upper-level low southeast of Wake Island near 14N173E is generating scattered showers within 125 miles of a line from 16N174E to 9N179E. A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from 2N130E to EQ133E with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of the equator from 130E to 141E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in two areas. One area is from well southeast of Palau eastward to near Kosrae or within 100 miles of a line from 4N138E to 5N148E to 4N163E. The other area is across the Marshall Islands within 150 miles of a line from 5N170E to 7N178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:46AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:46AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:55PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
05:49PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:24AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:25AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:25AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:26AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:27AM	5:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:55AM	4:27PM
Thursday	5:47AM	5:12 PM
Friday	6:40AM	6:00 PM
Saturday	7:32AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	8:22AM	7:42 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 19, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily

Saipan-Incheon

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:25am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:15am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Incheon-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:40am+1	3,4,6,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CNMI WIC moves to new location

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program under the CNMI Department of Public Health would like to inform the public and WIC participants that since Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, the program has relocated its clinic to Building N-13, Upper Navy Hill (behind Brilliant Star School; follow the blue WIC signs). For any questions, call 664-4067. (PR)

New office hours for child care office

Beginning Dec. 1, 2008, the Child Care Program Office will be closed for business every Friday, from 1pm to 4:30pm. This time will be used for administrative purposes, such as processing of clients' applications, re-eligibility, monitoring and other activities essential to the smooth operation of the program.

The new business hours will be:

- Monday to Thursday: 7:30am to 4:30pm
- Friday: 7:30am to 1pm

Hafa Day Events this Friday

The public is being invited to join the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition this Friday, Nov. 28, from 8:30am to 12pm at Garapan Central Park for the upcoming Hafa Day Events (Health Awareness & Fitness Activities). This is an opportunity for parents, teachers, the community, and most especially kids ages 7 to 15 years old to learn fun ways to stay active throughout the holidays. Go to www.marianashealth.com to also register online for the Hafa Day event. There will be a lot of giveaways, and even more memories and laughter.

Sobriety checkpoints today

The Saipan Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting DUI/Sobriety checkpoints today, Nov. 26, 2008.

The first checkpoint will be held on Beach Road Chalan Kanoa, by Carmen Safeway. This operation will start at approximately 7:30pm and will end at about 9:15pm.

The second checkpoint will be on the same date on Chalan Pale Arnold Road, in Gualo Rai, by the Saipan Cockfight from 1:30am to about 2:45am.

All checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain. In addition to the checkpoints, officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions and laser activities. ***(DPS)***

Family Hope Center relocates

Effective De. 1, 2008, the Family Hope Center will relocate the Center to the office of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc., located on Middle Road, approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection.

For more information, contact the center at 664-7041 & 7044 or CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/3/5/42. ***(PR)***

DPS seeks designated drivers for holidays

The Department of Public Safety will be kicking of the 2008 3D (Drunk and Drugged Driving) prevention program today, Nov. 26, 2008, to inform he public that DPS will be out in full force looking for and cracking down on impaired drivers this holiday season.

DPS is asking for volunteers who are interested in being designated drivers to show up with a copy of their driver's license today, Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2008 at DPS Central at 6pm and meet with Police Officer John Cabrera. There will also be a proclamation signing at DPS Central today at 11am. ***(DPS)***

Vendors sought for Puengin Inetnon

The Kagman Komunidat Association is looking for interested vendors to sell food, clothing, games, and other types of family oriented entertainment for "Puengin Inetnon."

"Puengin Inetnon" is Chamorro for "a night of gathering."

It will be similar to the Thursday Night Street Market in Garapan except that it will be held every government payday Friday at the Kagman Community Center. Interested vendors, volunteers, and performers may call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST for more info. ***(PR)***

Red Cross Health & Safety Trainings

The American Red Cross announces the following health and safety training for the month December 2008:

Adult CPR: Dec. 2, Tuesday, 6pm -10pm

First Aid: Dec. 16, Tuesday, 6pm – 10pm

Infant & Child CPR: Dec. 20, Saturday, 8am – 1pm.

The training fee for Adult CPR and First Aid is $30 per person/per course and the training fee for the Infant & Child CPR is $35 per person. A participant's booklet is required. Participant's booklet is $5 each and is good for all three courses.

For more information, call the NMI Chapter Office at 234-3459. ***(ARC)***

MHS Class of '88 meeting

The Marianas High School Class of 1988 will have a meeting on Friday, Nov. 29, 2008, at the residence of Melvin P. and Eleanor A. Cepeda in As Lito at 6:30pm. All classmates are encouraged to attend this important meeting. If you have any questions, call Eleanor A. Cepeda at 483-6358.

CAO seeks vendors for cultural show

The Carolinian Affairs Office, in cooperation with the Refaluwasch Genealogy Society, is seeking proposals for the development and operation of a cultural show to include Carolinian culture at the Carolinian utt in Garapan. Interested tourism vendors are invited to attend a meeting on Dec. 5, 2008 at 3pm at CAO to discuss requirements. For more information, contact CAO at (670) 234-6385.

Holiday Artists Sale reservations

Spaces are beginning to fill up for the 4th Annual Holiday Artists Sale, which will be held at the Multi-purpose Center on Nov. 29-30. Those who would like to participate may reserve space by contacting Katharyn Tuten-Puckett (tutenpuckett@yahoo.com) or Jeanne Rayphand (jeanneesq@yahoo.com). Reservation fee is $25 for one space; $15 for each additional space. ***(PR)***

Math placement test set

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting the Math Placement Tests on the following dates:

Jan. 6: 10am - 12pm
Room: D-1
5pm - 7pm
Room: D-1
Jan. 8: 10am - 12pm
Room: D-1
5pm - 7pm Room: A-9
Jan. 13: 10am - 12pm
Room: A-9
Jan. 15: 5pm - 7pm
Room: A-9

No reservations needed—first come first served. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting times listed above.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid ID (Drivers License, passport or School ID), pens or pencils and a calculator (optional). There is a $25 fee for the Math Placement Test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier Window at the Finance Office, located in Building N. Applicants will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee). NMC students are not allowed to take the placement test more than once. The only exception to this condition is for NMC students who have not taken a math class within one year of taking the math placement test.

Call the Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics Department at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 1200 or 1212 for more information. ***(NMC)***

San Vicente School Community Based Management, Inc.

INVITATION TO BID

ITB No: ITB-08-001

Submission/Opening date: November 24, 2008 Time: 10:00A.M.
Closing Date: December 1, 2008 Time: 10:00A.M.

Subject: Drilling of deep well at San Vicente Elementary School Campus for Brackish Water.

Copies of the specification may be picked up at the San Vicente Elementary School Office or for information, please fax questions to 664-3985 / Attention: Valrich Welch.

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents a per public law 15-95 and as further amended by public law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

This project is funded by Administration for Native Americans (ANA) and therefore preference is given to Native Islanders and other Native Americans (Hawaiian, Samoan, or any of the Native American Tribes).

/s/ Agnes McPheteres
Chairwoman, SVSCBM, Inc.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-THC-001

SUBMISSION: DECEMBER 29, 2008 TIME: 3:00 P.M.

"MANPOWER SERVICES FOR TINIAN HEALTH CENTER"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF SERVICES MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON **DECEMBER 12, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M.** AT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, TINIAN.

ANY QUESTION REGARDING THIS RFP SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO **HENRY ENNEST U. HOFSCHNEIDER, RHD-TINIAN HEALTH CENTER** BY FAX TO (670) 433-9247 OR BY E-MAIL TO thc_director@hotmail.com **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 16, 2008, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.**

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSE P. SAN NICOLAS
MAYOR OF TINIAN & AGUIGUAN

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB09-CGC-020

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 10, 2008 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TWO (2) OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
Secretary of Health

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

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Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
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MELL SINGAPORE	018E	11/22 Sat	11/20 Thu	11/20 Thu	11/18 Tue	11/15 Sat	11/28 Fri	11/24 Mon	11/23 Sun	11/16 Sun	11/16 Sun	11/24 Mon	11/28 Fri	11/29 Sat	12/2 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	026E	11/29 Sat	11/27 Thu	11/27 Thu	11/25 Tue	11/22 Sat	12/5 Fri	12/1 Mon	11/30 Sun	11/23 Sun	11/23 Sun	12/1 Mon	12/5 Fri	12/6 Sat	12/9 Tue
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MELL SENOKO	013E	11/29 Sat	11/30 Sun	11/30 Sun	SKIP	12/4 Thu	12/6 Sat	12/7 Sun	12/9 Tue	12/12 Fri	12/13 Sat	12/18 Thu	1/6 Tue	1/4 Sun	12/17 Wed
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STADT HAMBURG	027E	1/3 Sat	1/4 Sun	SKIP	1/6 Tue	1/8 Thu	1/11 Sun	1/11 Sun	1/13 Tue	1/16 Fri	1/17 Sat	1/22 Thu	2/10 Tue	2/8 Sun	1/21 Wed

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Reporter's notebook: The congressional freshmen

By CHAD PERGRAM
FOXNEWS.COM

JUDE MARFIL
CNMI Delegate-elect Gregorio C. Sablan and Tony Babauta walk along the corridor of Longworth House Building. Babauta is the staff director of the House Committee on Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Insular Affairs.

We've all been freshmen before. But few of us have been freshmen in Congress.

"This whole experience is like going to college," said Democratic Rep.-elect Jared Polis of Colorado.

Trust me. It's exactly the same.

Like college freshmen trying to find where their classes are, congressional freshmen must learn to navigate the Capitol complex with its labyrinths of tunnels and corridors.

Like in school, there are lots of people to get to know—particularly teachers. On the Hill, committee chairs and party leaders act as teachers.

And then there's rush: lobbying for a bid in a fraternity or sorority. In Washington, you push for an assignment on the committee of your choice.

The freshmen pine to be taken seriously by upperclassmen. Incoming Republican freshmen Reps. Duncan D. Hunter of California and Tom Rooney of Florida scored some key time with their pledge director, er, I mean House Minority Leader John Boehner on the first day of freshmen orientation.

Boehner invited the congressional neophytes back to his lavish Capitol office quarters to watch the San Diego Chargers play the Pittsburgh Steelers on TV. Hunter is following in his retiring father's footsteps, representing suburban San Diego. Rooney's grandfather, Art, founded the Steelers and his nephew owns the team now.

And what would be the collegiate experience without some hazing?

For instance, when former Democratic Reps. Pat Schroeder of Colorado and Ron Dellums of California joined Congress in the 1970s, the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee refused to give the newbies a place to sit. So they shared a chair, sitting, as Dellums described it, "cheek to cheek" in a single seat.

JUDE MARFIL
The CNMI flag will join this roster of flags of U.S. territories hanging inside the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources hearing room on January 6, 2009 when CNMI Delegate-elect Gregorio C. Sablan would have been sworn in.

Those sorts of shenanigans don't go on any more. But Democratic Rep.-elect Dan Maffei of New York is cautious.

Maffei served for years as spokesman for House Democrats on the Ways and Means Committee. While his status as a key aide certainly puts him light-years ahead of his colleagues on Capitol Hill, Maffei said he was still just a freshmen like the rest of his classmates.

"Senior members certainly don't hesitate to remind you of their seniority," Maffei told me.

In other words, if he gets out of line, Maffei can expect his old boss, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charlie Rangel (D-NY) to duct tape him to the dais after the House adjourns for the night. Kind of like pro football players duct taping rookies to the goalpost at the end of August practice drills.

These freshmen are the most junior members of the House. But then there's the most junior of the junior.

Video may have killed the radio star. But it certainly gave birth to a political star. Twenty-seven year-old Aaron Shock (R-IL) is the youngest member of the freshman class, which totals more than 50 members. He's the first lawmaker ever born in the 1980s. Just two months before MTV went on the air.

On the first day of freshman orientation, the newcomers filtered into the Hyatt Hotel in the shadow of the Capitol. The House Administration Committee handed out BlackBerries and updated them on the schedule for the week.

A handful of reporters milled about the hotel lobby, frantically scanning faces to see if they matched pictures of the congressional novices.

I stared for a moment at the pictures of four white, grey-haired freshmen between 55 and 60. Visually, there wasn't a single defining characteristic between them. Picking them out of a crowd was going to be murder. Capitol Hill reporters have a name for lawmakers who look like this: they're members of the "Generic Caucus."

JUDE MARFIL
Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo welcomes CNMI Delegate-elect Gregorio C. Sablan to her office at the Cannon House Building.

The problem for journalists is that many of us have never seen these people before. For instance, Democratic Rep.-elect Harry Teague of New Mexico sat unnoticed in the lounge for the better part of an hour while I scanned the throng for him just a few steps away.

Even current members don't recognize the neophytes. Republican Rep. John Carter of Texas is the House Republican Conference secretary. He made a special pilgrimage to the Hyatt to meet new Republican members.

"I know a lot of them," Carter bragged as he sat in the hotel bar.

That's when I introduced him to Republican Rep.-elect Chris Lee of New york. Lee sat directly behind Carter sipping a Coke and the congressman didn't even know it.

Perhaps the least-noticed member of the freshman class was Del.-elect Gregorio Kilili Sablan (I-MP). For those wondering what MP stands for: It's the postal abbreviation for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Lawmakers decided this year to grant the CNMI a non-voting delegate position to Congress, just like Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa and the US Virgin Islands. Delegates are treated just like other lawmakers. They can chair committees and caucus with parties. They're given suites in the House office buildings.

JUDE MARFIL
CNMI Delegate-elect Gregorio C. Sablan speaks at a reception of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Tuesday night. "I am very humbled by the experience" of being a member of Congress. "If there's anything that you'd like to share with me so we can get on the right start. If you see me doing a false start, you can always alert me," Sablan said.

They just can't vote on the floor.

Well, Sablan certainly looked like a man without a vote at the orientation. Or a state. Or a country.

He sat dejectedly on a couch at the Hyatt as his classmates flitted about. The House Administration Committee initially wouldn't allow Sablan to take part. It cited the fact that his race wasn't certified yet (Sablan was leading by 250 votes out of 10,000 cast, with three other candidates within striking distance). Never mind the House brought in both candidates for orientation from contested races in Ohio and California.

Sources familiar with the orientation told FOX News that the House Administration panel simply forgot about the new seat from the CNMI.

So Sablan waited. And waited. Until they finally declared him the winner later in the week.

I asked Sablan how one gets to Washington from the Northern Mariana Islands. He took a four-hour flight from the capital of Saipan to Tokyo. Then boarded a Northwest flight to Detroit. Then hopped a direct flight to Washington.

"I've been traveling more than 24 hours," Sablan moaned.

And those of you in Washington complain about your commute on the Beltway.

But like all freshmen classes, even a pecking order begins to emerge there.

On Friday, most of the newcomers gathered in a hearing room in the House Rayburn Office Building for the office lottery. This is where they freshmen draw lots in alphabetical order. The lower the number, the better office they can choose.

A whoop went up in the room when House Office Building Superintendent Frank Tiscone announced that Democratic Rep.-elect Gary Peters of Michigan drew the number one chip.

"It's good to pick number one," Peters said. "My four years as the Michigan lottery commissioner certainly paid off in the pick today."

Someone suggested the fix was in.

But these freshmen have so much to do. So much to learn. And they're encountering so many new faces: Fellow freshman. Sitting lawmakers. Lobbyists. People begging for jobs. Journalists.

On Friday afternoon, I ran into a freshman member I'd chatted up several times during the week. We talked while we ordered our lunch in the Rayburn Cafeteria. I asked the freshman what office she selected. She rattled off a room number in Longworth.

"And what office did you pick?" she asked me.

Hmph. Freshmen.

FOX News' Chad Pergram has won an Edward R. Murrow Award and the Joan Barone Award for his reporting on Capitol Hill.

JUDE MARFIL
CNMI Delegate-elect Gregorio C. Sablan and CNMI House Floor Leader Joseph James N. Camacho walk to the office of Rep. Neil Abercrombie (D-Hawai'i) at the House Cannon Building. Sablan and Camacho arrived 24 minutes early.

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Business

Obama's tax hike for the rich may be delayed

WASHINGTON (AP)—An economic crisis, rising joblessness and a credit squeeze can make a president-elect refine his words. Today's word is "repeal." During his presidential campaign, Barack Obama promised to repeal President George W. Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy ahead of their scheduled expiration in 2011.

It was part of how Obama would pay for an overall net tax cut aimed at low- and middle-income taxpayers, and an effort to bring what he called "fairness" to the tax system.

No one is talking tax hikes now.

Over the weekend, Obama said he has charged his new economic team with devising a plan that would create or preserve 2.5 million jobs over two years. He said the plan would include broad spending plans as well as the middle- and low-income tax cuts he described during the campaign.

Aides later said the plan would not include any of the tax increases Obama, as a candidate, had said he would impose on taxpayers who make more than $250,000.

Asked Monday when those hikes might go into effect, Obama said, "Whether that's done through repeal, or whether that's done because the Bush tax cuts are not renewed, is something that my economic team will be providing me a recommendation on."

If repealed early, Obama's tax increase on the rich would have generated significant revenue, but not enough to compensate for the cost of his tax cuts. An analysis by the Tax Policy Center, based on January 2008 income projections, estimated that the increases would result in about $43 billion in revenue in 2009 and $45 billion in 2010. Those numbers would be smaller now, as the economy has lowered expected incomes.

Asian stock markets rise after Wall Street rally

TOKYO (AP)—Asian markets rose Tuesday as investors regained some confidence on Wall Street's second straight day of strong gains, spurred by a U.S. government bailout of banking giant Citigroup.

Initial reaction in the region to the Citigroup news—which broke midday Monday in Asia—was tepid, and most benchmarks had ended the day lower. But after seeing markets in Europe and the U.S. surge overnight, Asian investors joined in the rally.

Gains faded somewhat as trading progressed, reflecting the persistent concerns investors have about the length and depth of slumps in the U.S.—a vital export market—and broader global economy.

"Most investors are still cautious on the U.S. economy," said Castor Pang, an analyst at Sun Hung Kai Financial in Hong Kong, adding that Tuesday's gains were likely a temporary rebound.

In Japan, which had been on holiday Monday, the Nikkei 225 stock average was up 3.4 percent at 8,179.00 after surging more than 4 percent earlier.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index, up 4.6 percent in early trading, rose 3.3 percent by midday at 12,873.80. South Korea's Kospi, which had fallen 3.4 percent Monday, rose 1.5 percent, while Australia's key index was up 3.7 percent.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil falls below $54 in Asia after rising overnight

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell below $54 a barrel Tuesday in Asia after surging overnight as investors mulled whether a U.S. government bailout of Citigroup Inc. restores enough confidence to staunch crude's 64 percent slide since July. Light, sweet crude for January delivery was down 61 cents to $53.89 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract overnight rose $4.57 to close at $54.50 after the Treasury Department announced a rescue of banking giant Citigroup. Fears the sprawling financial firm would collapse sent stock markets plunging and the price of oil to a 3-year low near $49 last week. But some oil market watchers think euphoria over the government lifeline for Citigroup will soon give way to more dismal news about a severe global economic slowdown and trigger a test of the lows that oil hit last week. "We could see some renewed oil price weakness in the very near term as economic data from the U.S. and Europe is likely to be weak," said David Moore, commodity strategist at Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney. "That would keep pressure on the oil price."

Ford Motor Co. tops safe car list

WASHINGTON (AP)—Dozens of new cars and trucks, led by Ford Motor Co. and its Volvo subsidiary, made the insurance industry's annual list of the safest vehicles, helped by the growing adoption of anti-rollover technology. For the 2009 model year, Ford and Volvo have 16 vehicles on the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety's list of the safest cars, followed by Honda Motor Co. with 13 vehicles, the institute said Tuesday. Seventy-two cars, trucks and SUVs received the top safety pick designation for the 2009 model year, more than double the number of vehicles in 2008 and three times the number in 2007. "No matter what kind of vehicle buyers may be considering, now they can walk into just about any dealership and find one that affords the best overall protection in serious crashes," said institute president Adrian Lund.

Saipan Cockpit Board
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Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Mayor Juan B. Tudela, Through the Municipality of Saipan, hereby gives notice that the Saipan Cockfighting Board will hold its **Regular** meeting on **Friday, November 28, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Saipan Mayor's Office Conference Room, 1st Floor, Afetnas Building, San Antonio, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Interim Rules
  - i. Bylaws
- d. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments

III. New Business
- a. Proposed Regulation Amendments
- b. November 16, 2008 Hackfight Protest (Dris v. Bricia)
- c. Licensee Protest

IV. Executive Session

V. Miscellaneous
- a. Announcements
- b. Next meeting
- c. Adjourment

Nation

Obama urges Congress to pass costly stimulus bill

CHICAGO (AP)—Citing an "economic crisis of historic proportions," President-elect Barack Obama urged Congress to pass a costly, job-creating stimulus bill as quickly as possible, a rare pre-inaugural call to action delivered as the outgoing Bush administration approved fresh billions to bail out one of the nation's largest banks.

Stock prices surged—the biggest two-day percentage gain for the Dow Jones industrials in 21 years—as investors took heart Monday from the actions and words of the incoming and departing chief executives.

"If we do not act swiftly and boldly, most experts now believe that we could lose millions of jobs next year," said Obama, 57 days shy of taking office in the shadow of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

He blended criticism of Detroit's beleaguered Big Three automakers—General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC—with a pledge of support for government aid to help them survive. "We can't allow the auto industry to ... vanish," he said, although he added that a blank check for an industry resistant to change was not the solution to its long-term decline.

At a news conference in which he introduced New York Federal Reserve President Timothy Geithner as his treasury secretary and named other top economic officials, Obama said restoring the economy to health took priority over deficit concerns. Still, he said he would be looking for "meaningful cuts and sacrifices" to restrain federal spending.

President-elect Barack Obama leaves after having dinner at a friend's home in Chicago, Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008.

AP

Bush pardons 14 and commutes 2 prison sentences

WASHINGTON (AP)—President George W. Bush has granted pardons to 14 individuals and commuted the prison sentences of two others convicted of misdeeds ranging from drug offenses to tax evasion, from wildlife violations to bank embezzlement, The Associated Press learned Monday.

The new round of White House pardons are Bush's first since March and come less than two months before he will end his presidency. The crimes committed by those on the list also include offenses involving hazardous waste, food stamps, and the theft of government property.

Bush has been stingy during his time in office about handing out such reprieves.

Including these actions, he has granted a total of 171 and eight commutations. That's less than half as many as Presidents Clinton or Reagan issued during their time in office. Both were two-term presidents.

On the latest pardon list were:

-Leslie Owen Collier of Charleston, Mo. She was convicted for unauthorized use of a pesticide and violating the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

-Milton Kirk Cordes of Rapid City, S.D. Cordes was convicted of conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act, which prohibits importation into the country of wildlife taken in violation of conservation laws.

ACROSS THE NATION

Gates: Review military's role in homeland defense

WASHINGTON (AP)—Defense Secretary Robert Gates on Monday ordered his top department leaders to conduct a broad review to determine whether the military, National Guard and Reserve can adequately deal with domestic disasters and whether they have the training and equipment to defend the homeland. The 41-page memo signaled an acknowledgment that the military must better recognize the critical role of the National Guard and Reserves in homeland defense, but stopped short of requiring many specific policy changes His memo comes in the wake of a stinging 400-page independent commission report that concluded the military isn't ready for a catastrophic attack on the country, and that National Guard forces don't have the equipment or training they need for the job. That report, released early this year by the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves, said the Pentagon must use the nation's citizen soldiers to create an operational force that would be fully trained, equipped and ready to defend the nation, respond to crises and supplement the active duty troops in combat.

Charity convicted in terrorism financing trial

DALLAS (AP)—A Muslim charity and five of its former leaders were convicted Monday of funneling millions of dollars to the Palestinian militant group Hamas, finally handing the government a signature victory in its fight against terrorism funding. U.S. District Judge Jorge A. Solis announced the guilty verdicts on all 108 counts on the eighth day of deliberations in the retrial of the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, once the nation's largest Muslim charity. It was the biggest terrorism financing case since the attacks of Sept. 11. The convictions follow the collapse of Holy Land's first trial last year and defeats in other cases the government tried to build. President George W. Bush had personally announced the freezing of Holy Land's assets in 2001, calling the action "another step in the war on terrorism." After Monday's verdict, family members showed little visible reaction until the jury left. Several women sobbed loudly. "My dad's not a criminal!" one nearly inconsolable woman said loudly. Court personnel told the family to calm her down, and as family members rushed her out of the courtroom, she said, "They treated him like an animal."

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King Hong Golden Phoenix Rice Limit 2 $29.99 50 lbs.

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Tilapia 99¢/lb. $38.95/case

HITE Beer $14.50 /case

Morinaga Milk Powder 400g $3.29

Master A-1 Tuna 99¢ each

Sunflower Mackerel 15 oz. $1.49

Ichiban $6.99 Limit 1

Warm Coke/Pepsi $11.99/case $13.95/case

Bud Family $22.99/case Limit 1 Case

FROZEN FOOD

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Beef Rib Finger $2.69/lb.

Beef Patties $4.29/2.5 lbs.

Ground Beef $16.95/10 lbs.

Chamorro Sausage $4.09/pkg.

Family Bag

Pork Chop	$2.19/lb.
Pork for Adobo	$1.99/lb.
Pork Hocks	$2.09/lb.
Pork Belly	$2.09/lb.
Pork Spareribs	$1.09/lb.
Beef Shortribs	$3.59/lb.
Beef Stew	$2.89/lb.
Beef Backribs	$24.99cs.
Beef Flanksteak	$3.79/lb.
Beef Ribeye	$3.79/lb.
Beef Oxtail	$3.79/lb.
Stewing	$1.29/lb.
Leg Quarter	$1.09/lb.

Ground Pork $17.99/pkg.

Bar S Bacon $2.59/pkg.

Miller Sausage $15.99/pkg.

Chicken Winggets $9.99/5 lbs.

Stewing Chicken 99¢/lb. $21.89/case

Hoffy Portuguese Sausage $1.99/pkg.

Bar S Jumbo Franks 99¢ Limit 1

Hoffy Hot Sausage $5.99/5 lbs.

Dragon Hotdog $2.59/pkg.

Kam Yen Jan Chinese Style Sausage $3.49/pkg.

Marinated Milkfish $4.99/pkg. Marinated Baby Milkfish $3.99/pkg.

Smoked Salmon Collar $27.99 /10 lbs.

Mackerel $1.19/lb. $26.95/case

San Pedro's California Squid (Box) $1.69/1 lb. $4.99/3 lbs.

Green Mussels $4.99/5 lbs.

Dragon King Shrimp 26/30 $3.99/lb.

Vega Shrimp $5.49/lb.

GROCERY ITEMS

Spam All Flavors $1.99/each

Ox & Plam Corned Beef $2.29 Limit 12

Black Label Luncheon Loaf $1.39 Limit 12

Campbell's Chicken Noodle Soup 89¢

Hormel Chili (No Beans) $1.79

Hormel Corned Beef Hash $1.79 Sliced

Dutch Colony Luncheon Meat $1.35

Sunflower Pike Mackerel 15 oz. $1.39/each

Sunflower Sardines 15 oz. $1.99/each

Fujisan Mackerel 15 oz. $1.49/each

Coco Tuna $1.09 Limit 12

Beach Cliff Sardines 79¢

Ligo Sardines 3 for $1.00

Vienna & Armour Sausage 59¢/each

Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce All Flavors $1.29

Del Monte Kernel Corn 69¢

Del Monte Fruit Cocktail $3.99

Carnation Milk 99¢

Argo Cornstarch 79¢

Kikkoman $3.79 1.6 lr. $6.99 3 lr.

Vegetable Oil 1 Gallon $8.75

Vlassic Dill Pickles $6.99 Whole $5.95 Whole

Golden State Vinegar $2.99

Sugar $1.49/kg.

Coffeemate 50 oz. $6.99

Special Value Coffee Creamer 22 oz. $1.89

Taster's Choice Coffee (Vending Pack) 8 oz. $6.99

Folgers Classic Roast 39 oz. $7.99

Nestea 36 qts. $6.99

Kellogs Cereals 3 Pack $8.99

Chamorro Punch $8.99

Water 500 ml. $5.95/case

Sunkist All Flavors $5.95/case

Kool Aid Jammers $2.99/case

Ritz Soda All Flavors $10.95/case

Real Fresh Milk $17.95/case

Korean Soba $15.95/case

Lucky Mee Cup Noodle (JJamppong) 24 pcs. $7.99/case

NON FOOD

Drypers $9.95 JUMBO $14.95 MEGA $4.95 CONVENIENT

Adult Diapers $7.95

Bounty 8 Rolls $8.95

Toilet Tissue 10 Rolls $3.95

Super Soft Napkin $4.95

Soft & Gentle 24 Rolls $8.99

Axxion Foam Plates 125 ct. $6.99

Fugo Candle Jar $11.95

Top Detergent Powder 3 kg. $5.99

Gain Powder Detergent 120 Loads $16.99

Gain Liquid Detergent $4.99

Clorox 96 oz. $2.99

Joy Dishwashing Liquid 90 oz. $5.99

Top Line Energy Saving Spiral Bulb 2 for $3.00

Napa Motor Oil $2.95

Butane Gas $20.99/case

PRODUCE

Potato (Jumbo) 89¢/lb.

Orange 89¢/lb.

Garlic 89¢/pack-4 pcs.

Onion 59¢/lb.

Red Apple Cello $3.99/Bag

Banana $1.09/lb.

Cantaloupe 99¢/lb.

U.S. Eggs Extra Large $2.39/doz.

EVERYDAY LOW PRICE • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST • PRICES CHANGES WITHOUT NOTICE

Asia

China maintains hold on Tibet, tests Dalai Lama

XIAHE, China (AP)—Chinese paramilitary police with riot shields and batons abruptly took up posts Monday on the main street of this Tibetan town, disrupting the bustle of Buddhist pilgrims in a reminder of China's determined control of the region.

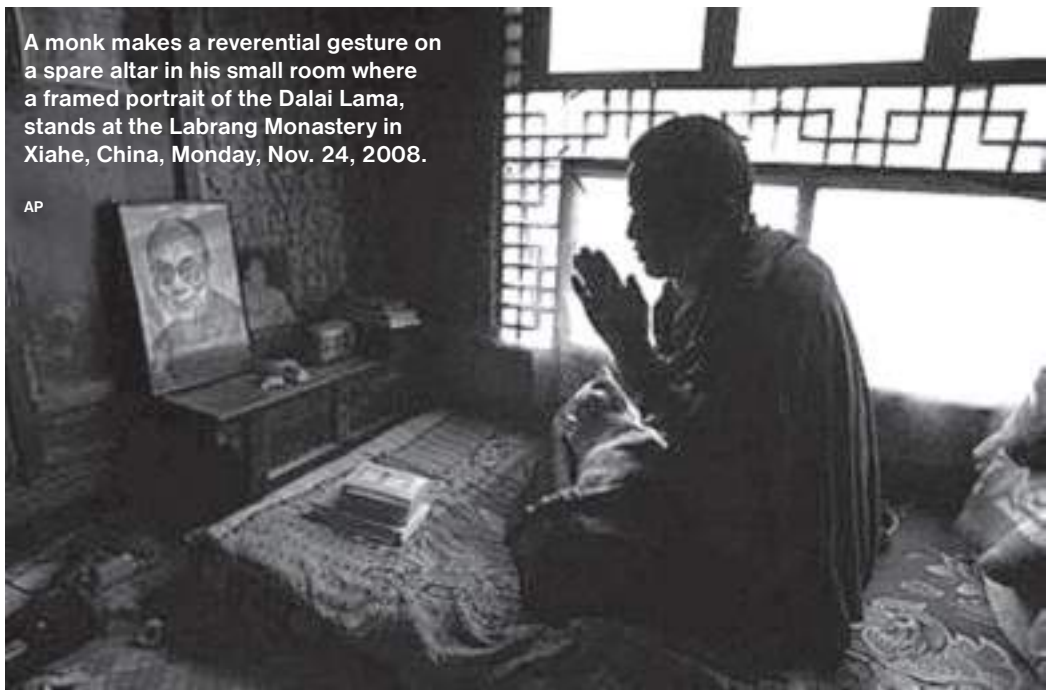
With some Tibetans pushing harder against Chinese rule, the communist government is determined to pacify the area.

The show of force Monday was meant to deter unrest while a local court sentenced a group of Tibetans for taking part in large anti-government protests in March in Xiahe, a small town abutting a sprawling complex of golden-roofed temples.

Though the verdicts were not publicly announced, the trial also seemed timed to answer the complaints of the Dalai Lama and other exiled leaders meeting in India over the weekend that Tibetans' patience with China's domination was thinning.

Seven months after Tibetans across western China exploded in the largest uprising against Chinese rule in nearly 50 years, the authoritarian government is adjusting tactics. Police checkpoints and guard posts in place for months are suddenly dismantled, only to reappear without warning days later.

"We are in the grip of the Communist Party. Tibet is occupied. The Dalai Lama has fled to India. My heart is sad," said a monk who has studied at Xiahe's Labrang monastery for 15 years and declined to give his name for fear of government reprisals.



A monk makes a reverential gesture on a spare altar in his small room where a framed portrait of the Dalai Lama, stands at the Labrang Monastery in Xiahe, China, Monday, Nov. 24, 2008.

AP

ASIAN BRIEFS

IMF approves Pakistan loan package

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan won final approval Tuesday for a $7.6 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund to help the front-line state in the campaign against Islamist terrorism stave off possible economic meltdown. The IMF said a first installment of $3.1 billion will be transferred immediately to the nuclear-armed country, which is battling surging violence by Taliban and al-Qaida-linked militants and is increasingly seen in the West as key to stabilizing neighboring Afghanistan. The IMF said the Pakistani economy had been badly hit by the worsening security situation, higher oil and food import prices and the global financial and credit crisis. "By providing large financial support to Pakistan, the IMF is sending a strong signal to the donor community about the country's improved macroeconomic prospects," said IMF acting Chairman Takatoshi Kato in a statement released after the decision Monday in Washington, where the fund is based.

Thai protesters vow to notch up intensity

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thousands of protesters surrounded the Thai government's temporary headquarters at Bangkok's domestic airport Tuesday, attempting to bring the administration to a standstill a day after blocking a Parliament session. The demonstrators, seeking the resignation of a government they allege is corrupt, camped outside the former VIP terminal at Don Muang airport that now serves as the office for Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat. Somchai was in Peru for a summit of Pacific Rim leaders and not expected back until Wednesday. The VIP terminal is about a half mile from the main passenger terminal and protesters showed no immediate sign of trying to disrupt travel. Still, travelers were advised to arrive early for flights and traffic was expected to be heavier than usual because of the protest, airport deputy director Viroj Ewcharoen said in a statement. Demonstrators said their goal is to block the government from meeting—whenever and wherever that may be.

One-third of China's Yellow River polluted

BEIJING (AP)—Newly released scientific results show one-third of the famed Yellow River, which supplies water to millions of people in northern China, is heavily polluted by industrial waste and unsafe for any use. The Yellow River, the second-longest in China, has seen its water quality deteriorate rapidly in the last few years, as discharge from factories increases and water levels drop because of diversion for booming cities. The river supplies a region chronically short of water but rich in industry. The Yellow River Conservancy Committee said 33.8 percent of the river's water sampled registered below level 5, meaning it's unfit for drinking, aquaculture, industrial use and even agriculture, according to criteria used by the United Nations Environmental Program.

North Korea to halt tours to historic city

KAESONG, North Korea (AP)—For months, tours of this historic city—famed for its Buddhist temples, royal tombs and ancient relics—have given South Koreans a glimpse of life in the hidden communist North. But North Korea officials announced Monday that these visits were being suspended starting Dec. 1 because of tensions with Seoul—not that they were that truly welcoming anyway: On a weekend visit, cell phones, laptops and cameras with telephoto lenses were locked away even before the tour bus left South Korean territory. Travelers were warned not to speak to ordinary North Koreans, not to criticize the government or to ask about the health of Kim Jong Il. And no souvenirs depicting the Dear Leader, a South Korean guide warned. "Don't bring back red items or any of that North Korean propaganda—I know foreigners love to buy propaganda," she said.

World

Shippers urge naval blockade of Somali coast

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Shipping officials from around the world called Monday for a military blockade along Somalia's coast to intercept pirate vessels heading out to sea. Yemen's government said Somali pirates have seized another ship.

Peter Swift, managing director of the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners, said stronger naval action—including aerial support—is necessary to battle rampant piracy in the Gulf of Aden near Somalia.

But NATO, which has four warships off the coast of Somalia, rejected a blockade.

Some 20 tankers sail through the sea lane daily. But many tanker owners are considering a massive detour around southern Africa to avoid pirates, which will delay delivery and push costs up by 30 percent, Swift said.

The association, whose members own 2,900 tankers or 75 percent of the world's fleet, opposes attempts to arm merchant ships because it could escalate the violence and put crew members at even greater risk, he said.

"The other option is perhaps putting a blockade around Somalia and introducing the idea of intercepting vessels leaving Somalia rather than to try to protect the whole of the Gulf of Aden," Swift said.

The Gulf of Aden, off Somalia, connects to the Red Sea, which in turn is linked to the Mediterranean by the Suez Canal. The route is thousands of miles and many days shorter than traveling around Africa's Cape of Good Hope.

Somali pirates have become increasingly brazen, seizing eight vessels in the past two weeks, including a huge Saudi supertanker loaded with $100 million worth of crude oil.

On Monday, Yemen's Interior Ministry said Somali pirates had hijacked a Yemeni cargo ship in the Arabian Sea. It said communication with the vessel was lost last Tuesday after it had been out to sea for a week.

The ship is called Adina and it was not immediately clear what cargo it was carrying. The U.S. 5th Fleet based in Bahrain could not confirm the hijacking.

Gazans using tattered notes because of cash crunch

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Desperate Gazans crowded into banks Monday, jostling to get to the front of lines as they sought to withdraw money amid a worsening currency shortage caused by Israeli sanctions.

Israel has refused to allow cash to enter Gaza in recent weeks to ratchet up pressure on the ruling Hamas militant group. With the supply of currency dwindling, banks have limited withdrawals over the past two weeks, and some have posted signs telling customers they cannot take out any more money.

The United Nations halted cash handouts to 98,000 of Gaza's poorest residents last week, and economists and bank officials warn that tens of thousands of civil servants won't be able to cash their paychecks next month.

"No society can operate without money, but that's the situation we are reaching in Gaza," said Gaza economist Omar Shaban.

Israel and Egypt have restricted movement through Gaza's border crossings since the Islamic militants of Hamas violently seized control of the coastal territory in June 2007.

Since then, closures have been eased or tightened, depending on the security situation. But even in quiet times, when Gaza militants refrained from firing rockets at Israeli border towns, only limited shipments of food, medicine and commercial goods were allowed in.

WORLD BRIEFS

Bombs kill at least 20 in Iraq ahead of pact vote

BAGHDAD (AP)—A woman hiding a bomb under her long robe blew herself up Monday among Iraqis waiting to enter the U.S.-protected Green Zone, where lawmakers plan to vote this week on a pact that would let American forces stay in Iraq for up to three more years. The morning attack in central Baghdad killed seven people, by an Iraqi count, and came about 45 minutes after a bomb destroyed a minibus carrying Trade Ministry employees in the eastern part of the capital. At least 13 people died in that blast, most of them women; some of the bodies were burned so badly that authorities could not immediately identify them. Ahmed al-Sayyid, 23, said he was waiting in line with friends at an entrance to the Green Zone, hoping for a job interview with the Iraqi police. A woman in a black abaya, an enveloping cloak, approached the line without drawing the attention of guards, he said. "Suddenly, she blew herself up about 50 meters from where I was standing. I was horrified and I ran away. But seconds later, I returned to the explosion site, which was filled with smoke, and I could see some wounded people and pieces of flesh," al-Sayyid said.

Refugees: Troops go on looting spree at Congo camp

KIBATI, Congo (AP)—Government soldiers went on an overnight looting and shooting spree in a sprawling Congolese refugee camp, stealing from hungry and traumatized people who have fled fighting with rebels in the country's east, witnesses said Monday. They said one woman was killed by a stray bullet Sunday night in Kibati, a village north of the eastern provincial capital of Goma that has been overrun by about 70,000 refugees. Patrice Sebahunde, 60, said he was awakened at 10 p.m. by four soldiers pointing guns in his face. They took his family's food, clothes and their plastic water bucket. "They came up, pointed a gun at me, and said, 'Wake up, wake up, give us money and everything you have,'" Sebahunde said. Bernard Udafuye said his house also was looted by soldiers Sunday night who stole food and a bucket but he did not blame them. "It was just an accident, that they stole from us," he said. "They are hungry." Years of sporadic violence in eastern Congo intensified in August, and some 250,000 people have fled their homes to escape combat between the army and fighters loyal to rebel leader Laurent Nkunda.

Russian FM blames Georgia for shooting incident

AKHMAJI, Georgia (AP)—Russia's foreign minister has suggested that Georgia's U.S.-backed government staged a shooting incident near a motorcade carrying the presidents of Poland and Georgia in order to discredit Russia and South Ossetia. The shooting late Sunday stoked anger months after Georgia and Russia fought a brief war over the separatist region of South Ossetia. The August conflict worsened Moscow's relations with the West. It also left South Ossetia entirely under the control of separatist forces and Russian troops. Before the war, Georgian forces held parts of South Ossetia. Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili has blamed Russian troops for the gunfire that broke out as he and Polish President Lech Kaczynski were traveling near a roadblock at the edge of South Ossetia. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said there was no gunfire from Russian or South Ossetian positions, and he suggested Georgia engineered the incident to discredit Russia and South Ossetia, Russian news agencies reported.

Campus Life

SVES invests in an Aquaculture Center

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A class of 6th grade students view the San Vicente Elementary School fish tanks slated to be revived and rehabilitated as the Aquaculture Science Center project of the school PTA and the School Community-Based Management council.

Yellow and green-shirted children lined up along SVES Isa Drive fence yesterday morning during the quarterly Field Day to wave to motorists and commuters in appreciation of the community's involvement in the educational pursuits of the school. In celebration of Education month, they were also standing tall to the newest thrust of pedagogical innovation that the school is well known for across the system.

With an active PTA organization and a School Community-Based Management council both headed by former NMC president and current NMC Board of Regents' member Agnes McPhetres, the school recently got a boost from the Administration for Native Americans when it was awarded a two-year grant to rehabilitate and expand the program of the school's Aquaculture Science Center.

Previously equipped with an aquarium and a hydroponic garden, along with experiments in alternative energy source and conservation measures, the Center functioned as a science laboratory that served particularly the upper grades of the school. The facilities, however, were damaged by seasonal typhoons, and with the school budget's failure to support the science resource teacher, the use of the Center declined until it was altogether eliminated from the school curriculum.

With the economic crisis that has plagued the Marianas Islands since the collapse of the Thai baht in the late 90s, and the

See SVES on Page 20

GHIS pupils reap awards again

The PGFC held in San Vicente Elementary School last November 15,2008 proved to be another challenge to the talented pupils of the Golden Harvest International School. They were able to win in the different events with the support of their parents and the dedication of their mentors.

K-2 DIVISION

Choral Speaking A
3rd place- Mathew Alaric Candare, Vincent Philip Salvador, Uzziel Cobacha, Victoria Nicole Santos, Ramhae Awit;
4th place- Jordan Towai, Renz Fauni, Maverick Guiao, Aldraine Galang.

Choral Speaking B
4th place-Kiersten Baron, Heleina Bautista, Marione Corpuz, Mark Ira Galang.

Duo A
4th place-Alfie Madlambayan and Ronald Fuellas

Duo B
1st place-Daphne Cruzat and Faith Bocago
5th place- Renz Fauni and Aldraine Galang

Dramatic Interpretation
1st place- Holly Liban
3rd place- Daphne Cruzat
4th place- Alfie Madlambayan

Humorous Interpretation
1st place- Holly Liban

3-5 DIVISION

Choral Speaking B
1st place- Tiffany Madlambayan, Isa Belle Seman, Cialena De Llamas, Stephen Seth Alonzo, Geuel Christian Villacrusis

Choral Speaking C
1st place- Sherkinah Grace Armea, Stevie Jocelyn Jeter, Angelica Carla Diaz, Shane Cobacha, Riselle Iris Leong
4th place- Emmanuel Cobacha, Newlyn Victoria Jeter, Francheska Fauni, Elizabeth Inos

Duo A
1st place- Shekinah Grace Armea and Riselle Iris Leong
2nd place- Isa Belle Seman and Tiffany Madlambayan

Duo C
1st place- Francheska Fauni and Newlyn Victoria Jeter.

Dramatic Interpretation
3rd place- Geuel Christian Villacrusis

Reader's Forum C
4th place- Angelica Carla Diaz

Trainers:
Sally Habijan, coordinator
Loreliza Espiritu, Bona Angeles, Meliza Umali

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of the Golden Harvest International School pose with their teachers, coaches, and principal after doing well in the recent PGFC competition held at the San Vicente Elementary School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's Math Court winners in the K-2 Division.

GCA Math Court winners

A big hurrah to the Grace Christian Academy winners who performed well in the Math Court Competition held Saturday, Nov. 8, 2008 at the William S. Reyes and San Vicente elementary schools:

First Grade
Robert Hanrey Schorr – 3rd place Geometry and Measurement; 1st place Data, Stats, and Probability
Caryl Andrei Batenga – 1st place Geometry and Measurement
Clark Birmingham - 2nd place Geometry and Measurement
Jim Michael Ham – 2nd place Data, Stats and Probability
Arvin Dayao – 2nd place Data, Stats and Probability

Second Grade
Alan Hinson – 3rd place Data, Stats, and Probability
Claudilyn Lacbayo – 2nd place Geometry and Measurement; 2nd place Data, Stats, and Probability
Seung Jae Kim- 2nd place Geometry and Measurement; 2nd place Data, Stats and Probability
Jolina Villanueva – 3rd place Geometry and Measurement; 3rd place Data, Stats, and Probability

Third Grade
Peter Camacho- 1st place Geometry and Measurement; 1st place Data, Stats, and Probability
Francheska Dalusung- 1st place Geometry and Measurement; 2nd place Data, Stats, and Probability
Cameren Hernandez- 2nd place Geometry and Measurement
Art Matthew Mamaril - 3rd place Data, Stats, and Probability; 3rd place Geometry and Measurement

Fourth Grade
FJ Dalusung- 1st place Geometry and Measurement; 1st place Data, Stats, and Probability
Kyle Chua - 2nd place Data, Stats, and Probability; 1st place Geometry and Measurement
Kenichi Shirata – 1st place Data, Stats and Probability; 2nd place Geometry and Measurement
Joseph Seo – 1st place Geometry and Measurement; 3rd place Data, Stats, and Probability
Abigail Deang – 2nd place Data, Stats, and Probability; 3rd Geometry and Measurement
Yu Jin Lee- 2nd place Geometry and Measurement; 2nd place Data, Stats, and Probability
Aileen Camille Dimaano – 4th place Data, Stats and Probability

Fifth Grade
Angela Cruz – 2nd place Geometry and Measurement; 3rd place Data, Stats, and Probability
Ezra Cervera – 3rd place Data, Stats and Probability
Samuel Seo – 3rd place Geometry and Measurement

Sixth Grade
Katrina Punzalan – 2nd place Geometry and Measurement; 5th place Data, Stats, and Probability
Dong Ha Lee- 2nd place Geometry and Measurement
Zuriel Chua- 4th place Geometry and Measurement
Hanako Shirata – 2nd place Data, Stats, and Probability

Seventh Grade
Yeong Jeong Kim- 3rd place Data, Stats, and Probability; 1st place Geometry and Measurement
Katrina Cruz – 4th place Data, Stats and Probability

Eight Grade
Crystalline Cristobal – 3rd place Geometry and Measurement

Tenth Grade
Christine Cristobal – 2nd place Geometry
Hailie Kim – 2nd place Geometry and Measurement

Eleventh Grade
CJ Libut - 3rd place Geometry

Twelfth Grade
Keith Sablan- 3rd place High School Algebra
Dae Won Jeon – 3rd place Geometry

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's Math Court winners in the 3-5 Division.

CAMPUS LIFE

Thrown to the deep end on her 1st day as principal

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Christine Tudela Masga was thrown head-first into her job as principal of Hopwood Jr. High School. On her first day she had to deal with two students who broke bones. Now, two years later, she continues to strive to improve her school of 1,140 students. Here she answers some questions.

Question: What is your background?

Answer: I am a graduate from our very own School of Education, NMC. I did my student teaching here at Hopwood in Language Arts (Writing & Reading) in 2001. Since my graduation in December 2002 I was hired and taught Language Arts. In the next years, I was the Reading Resource and LA Chair in charge of 12-14 LA teachers, data and assessment for over 1,150 plus students. In December '06, I was appointed Acting Principal. Through my employment with PSS I have obtained my master's [degree] and am working to further educate myself.

Masga

Q: What is a typical day like for you as principal?

A: Being an administrator alone can have many typical "normal" hectic days. For me, being a middle school administrator can never anticipate a "normal" day. Just a reflection on my first day on the job… It was Friday…. After staying late Thursday to prepare my office and clearing out my old classroom. I was exhausted but excited for the next day. I wore a black set outfit with heels. In the morning, a boy slipped and broke his arm… I witnessed his bone sticking out. I called 911 with my cell. In the afternoon, I had a girl break her hip near the PE Field area… running as fast I could toward the other side of campus holding a radio (not knowing the codes)… I immediately called 911. In one day, it was a full day with concerns and decisions to make.

My typical day would be staying on my toes to address my staff, parents, students, and community concerns. Office work dealing with reports and documents can take up most of my time but getting the chance to be with our teachers and students in and out of the classroom setting is the most rewarding feeling.

Q: What is the best thing about being a principal?

A: The best thing about being a principal is the ability to work with people who have the same goals as far as making our educational system efficient and effective and run in a safe and orderly manner. I enjoy meeting positive people who are proactive and willing to help make Hopwood Jr. High School aim high excellence. I love to see success in student and personnel achievements.

Q: What is the hardest thing about being a principal?

A: The hardest thing about being a principal is facing all the challenges and making positive outcomes with diverse people that come in our path. I feel that dealing with a variety of personalities can be hard but very blissful when a common understanding is made and the ongoing effort towards our common goal is feasible.

Q: What are your goals for the rest of the school year?

A: For the rest of the year, several goals I have are as follows: increase parental involvement, increase student data, aim high on student instructional delivery, improve professional development, improve our technology for our students and staff, and expand our cafeteria. I wish to offer more to our students and expand the horizon to learning more critical thinking and career exploration related curriculum.

SVES

From Page 19

ensuing reverberations across the Pacific, SVES educators along with other teachers within the public school system, struggled and continue to struggle with the practical dimension of school learning to local trade and commerce. With the drastic 15 percent decrease in school enrollment at SVES this school year, and the visible exodus of San Vicente residents off island, former 5th grade teacher Val Welch convinced the school administrators and officers and members of the PTA to invest, revive and rehabilitate the Aquaculture Science Center but with a distinctively practical and relevant dimension to the project.

The top two school administrators, Joaquina Salas and Betty Miller, are highly enthused with the possibilities the Center offers. Not only will the Center provide instructions that will increase students' understanding of science and raise science test scores by making science learning exciting and practical, the Center will also have an outreach component that will involve new off-campus home gardens and farms in the San Vicente community where students will be immersed in applied science alongside the hands-on learning in the laboratory and the conceptual teaching in the classroom.

An eye on propagating local medicinal plants, especially endangered species, will also be a part of the Center's mission, as well as the promotion of cultural land use practices that are environment-friendly. It is hoped that these will add to the science, math, and business skills of the SVES students.

The business side of the endeavor had not been neglected as well. Overall learning in the SVES community is expected to improve because desperately needed funds will be available from the sales of products produced at the Science center, and profits from the off-campus farms will enrich local accounts and aid in the creation of a scholarship fund. Project Manager Welch estimates that almost half a million dollars will be the leveraged resource that will be generated into the local economy.

The project targets 15 community partnerships to ensure replicability and sustainability in the long run. But more importantly, the Center will associate its program with the standards and benchmarks of the Public School System, particularly in Science, Math and the economics' section of Social Studies. Project proponents are aiming for a 30% improvement in standardized assessment scores for the school within two years. Welch, who is also the Computer Lab teacher for the school, intends to use widely the PSS' MOOGLE system (an Internet-accessible interactive school website) to attain the projects pedagogical goals.

Finally, and most importantly, the project offers hope of practicality and relevance in student learning, and as expressed in song by the students in yesterday's school assembly, the sentiment remains:

We are the children of yesterday's dream
We are the promise of the future we bring
Waving the banner of love to all
To every nation, the rich and the poor.

For together we stand, divided we fall
Together we climb to the top of the world
We can be what we want for the world to see
That we are the children of yesterday's dream.
(JRV)

Life & Style

China state media criticize new Guns N'Roses album

BEIJING (AP)—A newspaper published by China's ruling Communist Party is blasting the latest Guns N' Roses album as an attack on the Chinese nation.

Delayed since recording began in 1994, "Chinese Democracy" hit stores in the U.S. on Sunday, although it is unlikely to be sold legally in China, where censors maintain tight control over films, music and publications.

In an article Monday headlined "American band releases album venomously attacking China," the Global Times said unidentified Chinese Internet users had described the album as part of a plot by some in the West to "grasp and control the world using democracy as a pawn."

The album "turns its spear point on China," the article said.

China's Foreign Ministry did not respond to faxed questions about the article, although a spokesman speaking on routine condition of anonymity said: "We don't need to comment on that."

Spokesmen for the Culture Ministry and State Administration of Radio, Film and Television, government bodies that regulate album releases and performances, could not be reached for comment.

The Global Times article referred only to the title of the album and not to specific song lyrics. The record's title track makes a reference to the Falun Gong meditation movement that was banned by China as an "evil cult" and warns "if your Great Wall rocks blame yourself," in an apparent message to the country's authoritarian government.

Songs from the album could be heard on Internet sites such as YouTube and the band's MySpace page on Monday and it was not immediately possible to tell whether China's Internet monitors were seeking to block access to it.

Monitors use content filters that highlight and sometimes block messages containing words such as democracy. That prompted some Internet users to combine English and Chinese characters in their postings about the album to skirt such monitoring.

China approves only limited numbers of foreign films and recordings for distribution each year, partly due to political concerns but also to protect domestic producers.

Live performances are also closely regulated, with bands forced to submit set lists beforehand. The Rolling Stones were asked not to play several songs with suggestive lyrics during their 2006 China debut, including "Brown Sugar," "Honky Tonk Woman," "Beast of Burden" and "Let's Spend the Night Together."

Boy George goes on trial for false imprisonment

LONDON (AP)—A Norwegian escort told a court Monday that Boy George manacled him to a bedroom wall and beat him with a metal chain after accusing him of hacking into his computer.

The former Culture Club singer is on trial for the false imprisonment of 29-year-old Audun Carlsen.

The 47-year-old singer, who is standing trial under his real name, George O'Dowd, denies the charge.

Carlsen told London's Snaresbrook Crown Court that he met the singer through a Web site and went to his London home for a naked photo shoot. After the encounter Boy George sent a series e-mails accusing Carlsen of hacking into his computer, but Carlsen nonetheless agreed to return for a second photo session several weeks later in April 2007.

Carlsen told the jury that when he arrived Boy George and another man held him down and beat him before the singer handcuffed him to a hook in the bedroom wall.

"George was slapping me and beating me and punching me and screaming things," Carlsen said.

Carlsen said he was able to escape by unscrewing the hook and running for the door.

"I took a bit of time getting the door open and he had a metal chain that he was hitting me with," Carlsen said.

Carlsen said he ran into the street clad only in his underwear. The court was shown photographs of red welts on Carlsen's head and injuries to his arm which he said had been inflicted during the attack.

Boy George's androgynous image and powerful voice made him an `80s icon, and gave Culture Club hits including "Karma Chameleon" and "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me?"

But the singer struggled for years with drug problems.

In 2006 he was ordered to do community service with New York City's Department of Sanitation after pleading guilty to false reporting of an incident. He called police with a false report of a burglary at his lower Manhattan apartment, and the responding officers found cocaine inside.

AP
Actor Lillo Brancato, Jr. is shown in this Feb. 2005, file photo in New York. The former "Sopranos" actor faces a real-life murder charges in a New York where his trial in connection with the death of Police Officer Daniel Enchautegui begins Monday, Nov. 24, 2008.

Murder trial opens for 'Sopranos' actor

NEW YORK (AP)—Both sides in the murder trial of Lillo Brancato agree on one thing: The once promising actor was a junkie who hit bottom on Dec. 10, 2005—the night an off-duty police officer was killed during a burglary.

In opening statements Monday, jurors were asked to decide whether Brancato was a partner in crime with a man already convicted of shooting and killing the officer or merely a bystander.

Brancato—who got his start in the film "A Bronx Tale" and later appeared in "The Sopranos"—was led into the courtroom in a neatly tailored gray suit and handcuffs.

Prosecutors say Brancato and Steven Armento tried to break into the Bronx apartment to swipe prescription drugs after a night of drinking at a strip club.

"In their effort to get drugs to satisfy their own desires, they took the life of a New York City police officer," said Assistant District Attorney Theresa Gottlieb.

Brancato's attorney, Joseph Tacopina, told the jury his client was an addict who "ruined his life" with drugs and was "clearly strung out" at the time of the slaying.

But he argued that the true culprit was Armento, who was convicted of first-degree murder on Oct. 30 and has been sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Madonna tells AP work good distraction from split

NEW YORK (AP)—Madonna's marital breakup is tough, but she says she's grateful that her heavy workload "provides a distraction that keeps me going." "I'm sad about my personal life, but I feel very blessed and very lucky that I have the opportunity to do what I do in my professional life," Madonna told The Associated Press in an interview Sunday. "It would be horrible if I was just thinking about getting a divorce and had nothing to do."

Last week, Madonna and Guy Ritchie were granted a preliminary decree of divorce after eight years of marriage.

Among her current projects is promoting her documentary "I Am Because We Are," which explores the impoverished African nation of Malawi, where more than 1 million children are orphaned by AIDS. The film has its TV premiere on Sundance Channel Dec. 1.

AP

In this Sept. 1, 2008 file photo, British director Guy Ritchie, left, and his wife Madonna arrive for the world premiere of his film "Rock n Rolla" in London.

Fox's Hannity losing liberal half

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity is losing his liberal half.

Alan Colmes of the network's "Hannity & Colmes" said Monday that he'll be leaving the prime-time show after 12 years. He'll continue as a commentator on Fox programs, keep doing his radio show and is developing a weekend show at Fox.

"We have a Democratic House, Senate and president," Colmes said in an interview. "My work is done."

Colmes said he approached an executive Fox earlier this year about wanting to try something different and ending his time on the show, which airs live each weeknight. He said he was "looking forward to having dinner with my wife a couple of times a week."

Their show is second only to Fox's "The O'Reilly Factor" in prime-time cable ratings, and competes against Rachel Maddow on MSNBC and Larry King on CNN.

No decision has been made on who will replace Colmes, or whether he will be replaced at all.

Hannity has been the bigger star in media circles and recently signed a contract extension. Hannity also does his own solo weekend show at Fox.

Fox News Chairman Roger Ailes said Colmes "is one of the key reasons why Fox News has been such a remarkable success. We're sad to see him leave the program but we look forward to his ongoing contributions to the network."

Hannity said he'll miss his sparring partner.

"I'm proud that both Sean and I remained unharmed after sitting side by side, night after night for so many years," Colmes said.

AP

In this Oct. 18, 2008 file photo, Gerard Way, lead singer of My Chemical Romance, arrives at the Scream Awards in Los Angeles.

My Chemical Romance singer to be a dad

NEW YORK (AP)—My Chemical Romance singer Gerard Way's newest creation isn't a CD—it's an upcoming baby.

A rep for the singer says Way, 31, and wife Lindsey, bass player of the band Mindless Self Indulgence, are expecting their first child. The baby is due early in the summer 2009.

The pair have been married since Sept. 4, 2007.

My Chemical Romance is known for hits like "Famous Last Words" and "Welcome to the Black Parade."

'Dancing' fans edge closer to season finale

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Brooke Burke could be the one who wins "Dancing With the Stars."

The 37-year-old model-actress and her professional partner, Derek Hough, dominated the popular ABC dancing competition's final round Monday night, receiving a combined score of 58 out of 60 from the judges. Burke wowed the audience with a lively and twirly freestyle routine set to "You're the One That I Want" from "Grease."

"That, I think, was the best freestyle I've ever seen," head judge Len Goodman told Burke.

The judges bestowed Burke with a perfect score of 30 for the routine. The former host of "Wild On" from the E! network and CBS' "Rock Star" has dominated the dance contest's seventh season. Burke has come in first place seven out of nine times during the competition and received a 10—the judges' top score—13 times, maintaining an average score of 28 from the judges.

AP

In this image released by ABC, Brooke Burke and her partner Derek Hough compete during the semi-finals of "Dancing with the Stars," on Monday, Nov. 17, 2008, in Los Angeles.

"You are the one that we all want," judge Bruno Tonioli said to Burke.

Rapper MC Breed dies at friend's home at age 37

YPSILANTI, Mich. (AP)—It was in the gritty, blue-collar city of Flint that Eric Breed grew up amid the dimming opportunities of a declining auto industry.

That starkness was vivid in the lyrics of what would be the rapper's biggest hit, 1991's "Ain't No Future in Yo' Frontin'."

Breed, known professionally as MC Breed, died Saturday at a friend's home in Ypsilanti, about 30 miles southwest of Detroit, a Washtenaw County medical examiner's spokesman said Monday.

Toxicology reports were pending, but no foul play was suspected in the 37-year-old's death.

Breed had suffered from kidney failure, according to The Detroit News and The Flint Journal.

"More than just an artist, we mourn the loss of a beloved father, son, brother and friend," his family said in a statement. "We are thankful and blessed to have been in his presence and want him to be remembered for his creative, caring, talented and hardworking spirit."

Husband plans infidelity if wife is incapacitated

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I need some serious advice. I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis a year ago. My condition is stable. I have taken the necessary precautions such as dietary changes, exercise and prescription medications.

My husband and I have been married eight years. This is my second marriage and his third. My husband is a very stubborn man. Once he makes a decision he stands by it until death.

He has recently announced that should I become incapacitated and unable to perform my "wifely duties," he is going to find a "sex buddy." What should I do about this announcement?

WIFE IN DAYTON, OHIO

DEAR WIFE: I can't imagine an announcement that would cool a woman's ardor faster than the one your husband made to you. You say that "once he makes a decision he stands by it until death." Remind him that when you were married he promised to be faithful to you until death do you part. From my perspective, your husband appears to be a self-serving hypocrite, and you need to decide if that's the kind of person you want to live with for the rest of your life.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Logan," recently proposed. I gladly accepted. Logan is a little timid about announcing the fact that we are engaged. He's afraid of what people will think because we have only been together for seven months.

What is the appropriate time frame for courting before becoming engaged?

NEW FIANCEE, SELIGMAN, ARIZ.

■■■■

DEAR NEW FIANCEE: It depends upon the ages and the level of life experience of the individuals involved. Smart couples wait to become engaged until they have seen each other under a variety of circumstances—including some that are not pleasant. And after they do decide, they sign up for pre-marital counseling to make absolutely sure they agree on subjects like money management, how many children they want, and how they will be raised—the "little" things that can make or break a marriage. Because Logan seems uncomfortable about revealing your engagement, the two of you may have jumped the gun.

And now, Dear Readers, I will continue the tradition of offering the Thanksgiving Prayer that was written by my dear mother, Pauline Phillips. No Thanksgiving would be complete for me without it:

Oh, Heavenly Father,
We thank thee for food and
remember the hungry.
We thank thee for health and
remember the sick.
We thank thee for freedom and
remember the enslaved.
May these remembrances stir
us to service,
That thy gifts to us may be
used for others. Amen.
Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving, everyone!
Love, ABBY

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

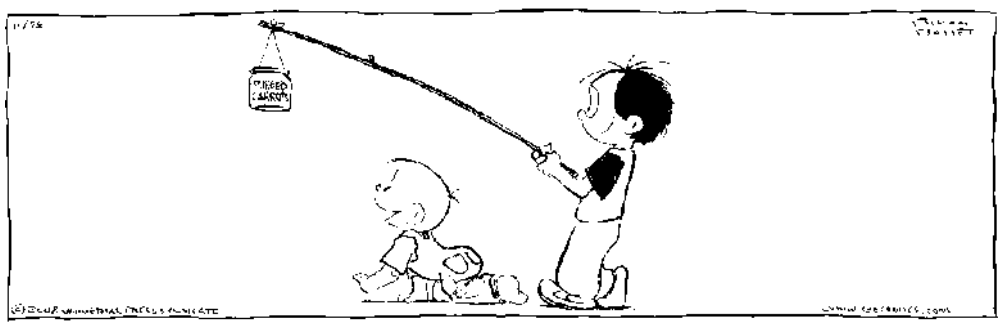
BOY, I'M IN A BAD MOOD TODAY. EVERYONE HAD BETTER STEER CLEAR OF ME!
I HATE EVERYBODY! AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, EVERYONE ON THE PLANET CAN JUST DROP DEAD. PEOPLE ARE SCUM.
WELL-L-L? DOESN'T ANYONE WANT TO CHEER ME UP?!?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

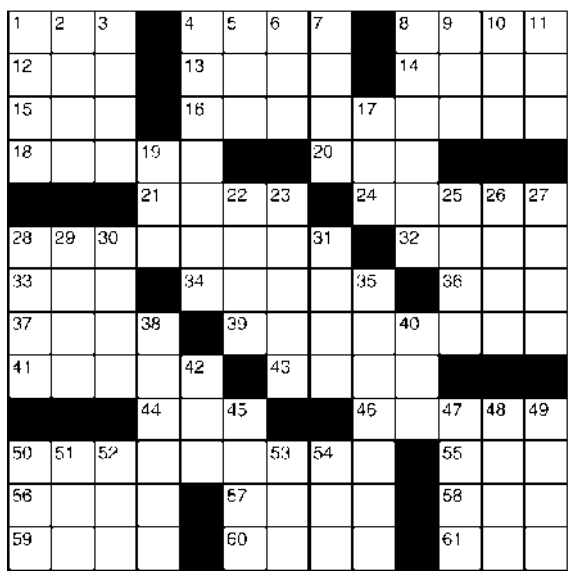
ACROSS
1 Do sums
4 Apprehend
8 Film segment
12 Anger
13 Medley
14 Similar to
15 Brooks or Torme
16 Chair protector
18 Filch
20 Corrode
21 Open somewhat
24 Tibet's capital
28 One with lots of four-legged friends?
32 Satan's specialty
33 Submachine gun
34 Jazz style
36 A Gershwin
37 Raised
39 Pirate
41 Comic Silverman
43 Cornfield trespasser
44 Scratch
46 Tangle
50 Read quickly
55 Dinner for Dobbin
56 Staffer
57 "David Copperfield" character
58 Swelled head
59 Banana castoff
60 Took to the pool
61 Chaps

DOWN
1 Intentions
2 Bob's "The Price Is Right" successor
3 Sandwich shop
4 Rhinoplasty
5 The whole enchilada
6 Midafternoon hour on a sundial
7 Easy bounding gait
8 Dress
9 Tyler or Ullmann
10 White House nickname
11 Apiece
17 Western st.
19 Crony
22 Birds, to Brutus
23 Violin's ancestor
25 Tel —
26 Paddock papa
27 Winged
28 Taverns
29 Pound of poetry
30 Wedding cake feature
31 Bellow
35 Telecast
38 Maiden
40 Possess
42 Possesses
45 Fishing gear
47 Attention getter
48 Storm
49 French city
50 Space
51 Falsehood
52 Praise in verse
53 Solemn promise
54 Historic time

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	H	O	T	■	J	U	N	I	T	■	L	O	T
L	U	R	C	■	S	O	H	L	■	A	U	G	
W	E	B	M	A	S	T	E	R	■	N	O	D	
■	■	■	I	R	E	■	M	A	C	R	O	■	
B	A	Z	O	R	■	■	P	I	C	A	■	■	
A	T	O	M	■	P	R	O	T	E	S	T	S	
■	O	R	■	S	H	O	N	E	■	■	I	P	
S	P	O	T	T	I	N	O	■	J	E	E	R	
■	■	A	W	O	L	■	■	B	E	R	R	Y	
B	O	S	O	M	■	C	A	R	T	■	■	■	
J	O	L	T	■	A	L	A	B	A	S	T	E	R
F	I	E	■	C	E	L	L	■	A	P	E	A	
F	O	R	■	H	O	L	E	■	M	A	K	E	

Yesterday's answer 11-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18 or y.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Garcelle Beauvais-Nilon, 42; Tina Turner, 69; Rich Little, 70; Robert Goulet, 75

Happy Birthday: This is a year to clean house and set up your game plan for the future. Don't put off what you want to do—seize the moment and go after all that will make you feel good about yourself. You will be all fired up and eager to stand up to anyone or anything that gets in your way. Your numbers are 7, 11, 16, 21, 32, 37, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You can come out a financial winner by doing the work yourself. Contracts can be signed or negotiated. Take advantage of an opportunity to use your talent for future prospects. Don't let a love problem slow you down. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): If there are problems with a partnership, communicate before it's too late and you end up making irrational moves. Don't neglect the obvious. If you act impulsively, you may end up with a situation you don't really want. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let anything you are working on or trying to accomplish get out of control. Keep things small and easy to handle. Be firm about responsibilities and ask for specific contributions from people you know are responsible. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Give love a chance by letting that special someone know how you feel. Mix business with pleasure and you will have a win-win situation. Coordinate your personal and professional lives so they work as one. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You should be able to tie up your holiday list and have a little time to get together with a friend. Someone you meet along the way will interest you in a possible job opportunity. Don't hesitate if it stirs your imagination. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Just get things done. If you wait around for others to do the work, you will lose more time. Be blunt, however, about what you have contributed and take your fair-share of the credit. A love interest will take a positive turn. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A renewed interest in someone from your past will warrant a phone call. Hooking up or even partnering with this person could be great professionally, but may cause you some problems emotionally and personally. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You won't have time to sit and chat but the rewards from your hard work will pay off. You can expect to receive added responsibilities but, with a positive spin, you will be sitting in a very good position. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Show authority and handle each situation with firm but diplomatic tactics. Being a pushover will not help you get what you want. Do what you have to do and save being nice for your close friends and family. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Take action, make reforms and be a spokesperson for something you believe in. You will be surprised by the people you meet along the way and the interest you get in what you are trying to do. Give back to your community. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Looking for a better position or another means of earning extra money will turn out well. It's never too late to start anew, so don't give up before you try. Remember your dreams and prepare to take action. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Keep any information you have a secret for now. If someone is asking too much of you, back away. You will make a mistake that will be difficult to rectify if you aren't careful. Abide by the rules and steer clear of trouble. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are forthright and eager to please. You are ethical and have high standards. You are charming, thoughtful and a good judge of character.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		2	9	5	3	1		
	7						8	
5				8				6
4				7				1
3	6			4	9	8		2
9								4
7								3
	4			2			1	
		9	7	1	4	6		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	4	9	5	2	1	7	3	6
5	6	3	9	8	7	4	1	2
7	1	2	6	3	4	5	8	9
3	8	7	4	1	9	2	6	5
4	9	5	2	6	3	8	7	1
1	2	6	7	5	8	9	4	3
2	5	8	1	4	6	3	9	7
6	7	4	3	9	5	1	2	8
9	3	1	8	7	2	6	5	4

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The unchosen letters spell the Wonderword.

PLYWOOD — Solution: 10 letters

L	E	N	A	P	A	I	N	T	U	N	L	A	W	E
B	A	S	E	M	E	N	T	E	N	E	E	N	C	E
E	N	I	P	E	N	R	L	A	O	D	I	D	G	L
C	G	D	R	A	H	U	O	R	E	H	E	D	S	Y
R	L	T	I	E	S	I	M	C	T	R	E	M	A	N
O	E	L	G	H	T	D	K	G	E	D	O	L	V	I
F	S	T	I	L	R	A	R	P	N	O	N	E	O	V
N	R	E	B	M	U	L	M	A	R	I	N	E	W	G
I	L	E	N	S	C	E	S	D	O	E	D	A	R	G
E	A	H	M	E	T	E	N	J	E	B	L	I	F	E
Ⓡ	Y	S	D	A	U	A	D	R	W	L	T	R	L	D
Ⓞ	E	A	E	G	R	A	I	N	S	O	L	D	O	S
Ⓞ	R	L	N	I	E	F	E	N	O	C	R	O	O	A
Ⓓ	S	E	S	S	K	N	A	L	P	K	R	K	R	W
E	I	A	E	R	C	D	S	R	E	T	I	U	H	S

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Adjoin, Angles, Basement, Block, Boards, Cedar, Core, Craft, Create, Deck, Dense, Door, Fence, Floor, Flush, Form, Frame, Glue, Grade, Grains, Hard, Inlay, Layers, Log, Lumber, Marine, Material, Mill, Nails, Paint, Panel, Pine, Planks, Reinforce, Roof, Rooms, Saw, Sander, Saws, Sheet, Shutters, Sliding, Solid, Stain, Strand, Structure, Tempered, Thin, Tools, Tree, Veneer, Vinyl, Walls, Walnut, Work.

Yesterday's Answer: Mozzarella

Treasury Box 7 Series crossword puzzle collection (10 puzzles plus puzzle solving and handling tips) is available for U.S. funds only for one volume ($5.50 plus postage and handling each) from Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-872-3480 to order with a credit card.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

For Rent: 2 bedroom, 1bedroom, studio type, located in Aslito and CK centralized location. Fully furnished, 24hr/ water, safe, cheap. For more inquiry please call 287-7769

FOR SALE

For sale: Used Diesel Generator, Denyo made in Japan, sound proof 25KV. Price: $5,500. Call Glenn @ 233-8223, 8am to 5pm

EMPLOYMENT

Farmer Needed:
Contact me
at 287-7484

WHATZIT Solution:
Split pea soup

LOST PASSPORT
Name: Sun, Xianshu
Passport No: G01732874
Type of Passport: China
Date of Birth: Mar. 28, 1977
If found, please call
483-8085.

LOST PASSPORT
Name: Piao, Wenri
Passport No: G08526552
Type of Passport: China
Date of Birth: Nov. 21, 1972
If found, please call
483-8085.

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www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

LOST PASSPORT
Name: Cui, Fanzhe
Passport No: G08060513
Type of Passport: China
Date of Birth: Feb. 19, 1962
If found, please call
483-8085.

LOST PASSPORT
Name: Jifu, Shen
Passport No: P.1780971
Type of Passport: China
Date of Birth: Feb. 9, 1956
If found, please call
483-8085.

LOST PASSPORT
Name: Lin, Guiyue
Passport No: G06963210
Type of Passport: China
Date of Birth: May 22, 1965
If found, please call
483-8085.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

SOUP

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Find today's solution in this section

Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI)

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

TEMPORARY (1 YEAR) POSITION

"SYSTEMS NAVIGATOR"

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI), a non-profit organization under 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Code, seeks a **SYSTEMS NAVIGATOR**. This is a non-exempt position responsible for carrying out the objectives of the Family Support 360 program as per Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Council on Developmental Disabilities (CDD). The Systems Navigator reports to the Program Manager and works under direct supervision within prescribed standards, policies and procedures.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- An Associates Degree (A.A. or A.S.) in any related field or no less than 60 credit hours from a post secondary school; or
- Two (2) years of experience that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the specific principles and practices for the work in this position.

PREFERRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

- Interpersonal skills which allow employee to maintain productive working relationships with co-workers, clients and other working professionals;
- Oral and written communication skills that enable employee to effectively and professionally communicate with co-workers, clients and other working professionals; and
- Proficiency in usage of computers including, but not limited to word processing and spreadsheet applications.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on middle road approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. In order for applications to be considered they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) a Resumé, (3) Completed Application forms, (4) a Police Clearance and (5) must be submitted ***no later than 5:00pm on November 30, 2008.*** Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. Jim Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7278[tty] or email at nmpasi@pticom.com . NMPASI IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

James M. Rayphand
Executive Director

John Guerrero
President

LSG Sky Chefs

VACANCIES

■ Delivery Drivers

Local / IR only
Pickup application at LSG main office
on Airport Road.

ATTENTION to the PUBLIC

Please be informed that
Saipan Galing Remittance Center
has ceased its operations.

If you have any questions, comments or complaints, please direct it to: Office of the Director of Banking
Tel. no. 664-3044

From the Management of ***Saipan Galing***

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Yao, Rockets beat Heat, 107-98

MIAMI (AP)—Yao Ming scored 28 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, Ron Artest scored 20 and the Houston Rockets finished off a perfect three-game road trip against the Eastern Conference with an 107-98 win over the Miami Heat on Monday.

Rafer Alston added 14 points for Houston, which finished with seven players in double figures and outrebounded Miami 51-35.

Dwyane Wade scored 23 points for Miami, doing so on 7-for-23 shooting. Mario Chalmers added a career-best 23, including five 3-pointers, for the Heat, who also got 17 points from Shawn Marion and 14 from Michael Beasley.

The Rockets finished their Eastern Conference road swing 3-0, marking only the fourth time in the last 12 years that they were perfect on a trip lasting at least three games.

AP

Miami Heat's Yakhouba Diawara shoots as Houston Rockets' Yao Ming defends during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Monday, Nov. 24, 2008. The Rockets defeated the Heat 108-97.

Magic 108, Bucks 101

At Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had 24 points and 13 rebounds to help Orlando beat Milwaukee.

Hedo Turkoglu and Rashard Lewis each added 22 points for the Magic.

Richard Jefferson scored 25 points to lead Milwaukee, which lost Andrew Bogut to a left knee bruise in the third quarter.

The Magic saw point guard Jameer Nelson leave with a groin strain.

Orlando led by 12 with just under two minutes left, but poor free throw shooting and Jefferson almost brought the Bucks back. His short jumper with 24 seconds left cut the lead to 103-100, but free throws by Turkoglu and Lewis sealed the win.

Bobcats 93, 76ers 84

At Charlotte, North Carolina, D.J. Augustin scored 25 points and added a career-high 11 assists, backcourt mate Raymond Felton added 23 points, and Charlotte used its new speedy and tiny lineup to beat Philadelphia.

The 6-foot Augustin and the 6-1 Felton had their best game together since coach Larry Brown inserted the rookie Augustin in the starting lineup three games ago. They helped the Bobcats snap a four-game losing streak despite another meek performance from Charlotte's front line that somehow the 76ers couldn't take advantage of.

Elton Brand had 18 points and Andre Iguodala added 17 points for the Sixers.

Trail Blazers 91, Kings 90

At Portland, Brandon Roy scored a season-high 28 points and Portland rallied during the final six minutes to beat Sacramento.

Joel Przybilla added 10 points and 12 rebounds, while Steve Blake had 12 points for the Blazers.

Greg Oden made his first start for Portland since returning from a foot injury on Nov. 12. Oden, the first pick of the 2007 NBA draft, had three points, six rebounds, and four turnovers in 19 ineffective minutes.

John Salmons led Sacramento with 20 points and had a chance to win the game, but his drive to the basket with two seconds remaining came up short of the rim.

Hornets 99, Clippers 87

At Los Angeles, David West scored 27 points and New Orleans beat the Los Angeles Clippers.

Peja Stojakovic had 13 points and nine rebounds for the Hornets, who won their third straight following a home-and-home sweep of Oklahoma City. Forward Morris Peterson did not play because of pain in his right knee, but backup point guard Devin Brown was back in the lineup, scoring 11 points after spraining his right ankle in Saturday's 109-97 win.

Eric Gordon scored 25 points to lead the Clippers despite spraining his ankle early in the first quarter.

GM ends 9-year endorsement deal with Tiger Woods

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors is bailing out on Tiger Woods.

Woods, a global icon in sports with his 14 major championships, has been carrying the Buick logo on his golf bag for the last nine years and still had one year left on his contract.

But General Motors Corp. was looking to cut costs and hoard cash while trying to survive the worst sales downturn in a quarter-century. And it said Monday the world's No. 1 golfer wanted more time for himself, especially with a second child on the way.

"Timing is everything," said Larry Peck, golf marketing manager for Buick. "We've had such a great partnership with Tiger. It's hard for us to walk away from that. But this frees up time for him. And it sure frees up a lot of money for us."

The endorsement deal, believed to be worth at least $7 million a year, was to expire at the end of 2009.

Woods has endorsed GM products around the world and mainly has been seen in Buick commercials as the company tried to give the nameplate a more youthful image. Peck said during the launch a few years ago of the Enclave that its research showed 78 percent of consumers who bought the SUV previously had not been Buick owners.

"We attribute awareness of our product to Tiger," he said.

Buick's U.S. sales have dropped 54 percent from 2000, the first full year Woods worked with GM, to 2007, according to Ward's AutoInfoBank. The brand's global sales, however, rose 17 percent during that span, according to GM. Buick is particularly popular in China.

The average age of the brand's buyers also dropped. Around 2001, the average age was in the low 70s, but it has since fallen to 66 for Buick sedans and 53 for the Enclave.

GM has been making dramatic cuts in advertising as it tries to conserve cash. The nation's largest automaker spent nearly $7 billion more than it took in last quarter and has warned that without federal help, it may reach the minimum amount of cash required to run the company by the end of the year.

Mark LaNeve, GM's vice president for North American marketing, said GM and Woods started discussing an end to the deal earlier this year, and it had nothing to do with the Detroit Three automakers' quest for $25 billion in federal loans.

But GM's statement said the decision was made as part of "the search for budget efficiencies during a difficult economy for General Motors."

Woods' agent at IMG, Mark Steinberg, said the decision to end the relationship one year early was "absolutely mutual."

"It was a combination of things," Steinberg said. "Tiger was looking to gain some more time, and certainly it was an opportunity for GM to reduce its spending with everything going on."

Buick said last week that it would be cutting back on its deal providing courtesy cars at PGA Tour events.

GM is so concerned about costs that it cut advertising during the 2009 Super Bowl, although it still plans to sponsor the NFL and likely air ads before and after the game. GM also has pulled out of the Oscars and Emmy Awards in 2009—the first time in more than a decade it is not running ads right before, during or after the two events.

U.S. automakers, the single largest category of advertisers, cut their ad spending 18 percent to $1.37 billion in the second quarter compared with the same period in 2007, according to TNS Media Intelligence in New York.

Foreign automakers also are trimming their spending on advertising in U.S. markets, with a 5.4 percent cut in the second quarter, for an overall 11 percent drop in U.S. auto ad spending to $3.27 billion, the 12th quarterly dip in a row.

Woods has carried only two logos on his bag since he turned pro in August 1996. He was with Titleist through 1999 until Buick won a bidding war for its brand on a bag that gets more television time at tournaments than any other golfer.

Woods has not played since season-ending knee surgery after winning the U.S. Open, and he is not expected to return until next year, most likely in early March, depending on his recovery.

Steinberg said he would "expect there to be some exposure on the bag" when Woods next plays.

"I've got a few ideas, and we're in the process of working through that," he said.

Buick remains the title sponsor of two PGA Tour events—the Buick Invitational at Torrey Pines, which Woods has won six times, and the Buick Open outside Detroit, which Woods has won twice.

Wizards fire Jordan, name Tapscott interim coach

WASHINGTON (AP)—Eddie Jordan was fired as coach of the Washington Wizards on Monday after opening the season 1-10 without injured starters Gilbert Arenas and Brendan Haywood. "That's an unacceptable record, obviously," team president Ernie Grunfeld said at a news conference to introduce director of player development Ed Tapscott as interim coach. "We had to do something. The way we're losing games was unacceptable."

The Wizards' record matches the worst start in franchise history; the only other time the team was 1-10 was in 1966, when it was called the Baltimore Bullets. The final straw for Jordan appears to have been a 122-117 loss Saturday night to the undermanned New York Knicks, who had only seven players available.

"We lost games we were supposed to win—especially that one," second-year guard Nick Young said.

Tapscott ran his first practice as an NBA head coach Monday morning and vowed to place a strong emphasis on defense—something Jordan repeatedly promised, too. Washington is allowing 103.5 points per game, which ranks 27th in the 30-team league.

"We've been a little sieve-like, letting people go down the lane," Tapscott said. "Our philosophy will be: 'Protect the rim and the lane.'"

He will coach the team for the rest of this season. Grunfeld said he'll "evaluate everything" in the offseason.

While never before a head coach in the pros, Tapscott has plenty of front-office experience, including as president and chief operating officer of the Charlotte Bobcats and, before that, as vice president of player personnel and basketball operations for the Knicks in the 1990s. He coached at American University in the 1980s.

"We all respect him," co-captain Antawn Jamison said. "We know he has a great basketball IQ."

Associate head coach Mike O'Koren also was fired Monday.

"It just felt like we were going in the wrong direction," Grunfeld said. "If felt a little stale."

Jordan was in his sixth season with the Wizards and led the team to the playoffs each of the past four - the longest postseason streak for a Washington coach since Dick Motta did it from 1976-80. Under Jordan, though, the team made it past the first round only once.

In September, shortly before the start of training camp, the Wizards picked up a one-year option to keep Jordan under contract through the 2009-10 season. That, along with the injury-depleted roster, were reasons Jordan's job was thought to be safe—and why Monday's move came as something of a shock, despite the team's record.

"It's surprising. I don't think any of the players saw it coming," Haywood said.

Jordan leaves as the Eastern Conference's longest-tenured coach and No. 3 in the NBA behind Jerry Sloan of the Utah Jazz and Gregg Popovich of the San Antonio Spurs.

"This was an extremely difficult decision because I'm personally very fond of Eddie," Wizards owner Abe Pollin said in a statement released by the team. "He helped bring our franchise back to the playoffs. ... I will forever be grateful for his dedication and hard work. However, sometimes circumstances force changes. Our team is not performing to my expectations and I felt it was time to make a change."

Jordan came into this season with a 196-214 mark with the Wizards, but that included a rebuilding 25-57 record in his first season. Since then—with a fast-paced offense built around Arenas and also featuring All-Star forwards Jamison and Caron Butler—Jordan helped turn the Wizards around.

He was the East's coach at the 2007 All-Star game.

But the Wizards have struggled to even be competitive at times this season, with Arenas recovering from his third operation on his left knee in 1 1/2 years, and with Haywood out for perhaps the entire season after surgery on his shooting wrist.

Washington opened 0-5, then beat the Jazz at home to avoid the first 0-6 start in franchise history. That victory, though, was followed by another five-game losing streak.

The only NBA team with a worse record is the Oklahoma City Thunder, who are 1-13 and fired coach P.J. Carlesimo over the weekend.

Tapscott's debut will come Tuesday night, when Washington hosts the Golden State Warriors.

He joined the Wizards' front office in August 2007 after spending a year as an analyst for the team's television broadcasts. He was fired in 2006 by the Bobcats.

Tapscott was an assistant to current Maryland coach Gary Williams at American University in the 1970s and became head coach in 1982. In eight seasons at AU, Tapscott finished with 119 victories.

"This is not the end of the season. This is not the end of the world," Jamison said. "We've got to move forward."

Brees leads Saints to 51-29 win vs. Packers

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Drew Brees and Deuce McAllister gave Saints fans what they longed to see after 43 days away from the Louisiana Superdome.

Brees threw for four scores, McAllister set a Saints record with his 54th career touchdown and New Orleans rolled to a 51-29 victory over the Green Bay Packers on Monday night.

Brees dismantled a Packers secondary that came in ranked third in the NFL with 176.3 yards passing allowed per game. He was 20-of-26 for 323 yards as New Orleans tied a club record for points scored in a game. Two of Brees' touchdowns went to Lance Moore, one for 70 yards.

"We spread the ball around pretty good," Saints coach Sean Payton said. "You just saw (Brees) being very comfortable with where he was going each time and I thought he was extremely efficient—and those guys up front did a good job for him as well."

Brees remained on pace to break Dan Marino's 1984 record of 5,084 yards passing in a season. He has 3,574 yards with five games remaining. He also has the Saints (6-5) feeling better about their hopes of rallying for a playoff spot now that they've won two games in a row for the first time all season.

The Packers (5-6) dropped a game behind Minnesota and Chicago in the race for first in the NFC North.

"We didn't slow them down at all tonight," Green Bay coach Mike McCarthy said. "Give credit to the Saints and the play of their quarterback. He was on fire coming into the game and we didn't cool him off any."

Aaron Rodgers' attempt to keep up with Brees' torrid passing resulted in three interceptions, two by Jason David and one by Kevin Kaesviharn. David returned his first pick to the 3, setting up McAllister's scoring run, which broke Dalton Hilliard's club record set in 1993.

The sellout crowd erupted after McAllister's score. The Saints' career rushing leader kept the ball as he trotted to the sideline, where he was hugged by Payton.

"Obviously, a lot of emotion and we couldn't be happier for him," Payton said. "His teammates, all the fans here had a chance to witness that. It was pretty special. It was a good run, great effort. A typical Deuce McAllister run with a second effort that finished into the end zone."

It might have been McAllister's final game in the Superdome this season. He has appealed a four-game suspension levied after he tested positive for a diuretic banned by the NFL because it could be used as a masking agent for steroids. It is not clear when the league will rule on McAllister's case.

Rodgers was 23-of-41 for 248 yards and touchdown passes of 7 yards to Greg Jennings and 4 yards to Ruvell Martin. Rodgers also ran for a 10-yard score. Ryan Grant rushed for 64 yards in the first half, but the Packers were forced to throw more as their deficit grew and Grant finished with only 67 yards.

Leading 24-21 at the half, the Saints began to seize control with a long touchdown drive that ended with Brees' 16-yard strike to tight end Billy Miller. McAllister then went in from the 3 and Brees hit Marques Colston in stride down the sideline for his second 70-yard TD pass of the game. It was Colston's first score of the season after battling back from a thumb injury on opening day.

Pierre Thomas rushed for 87 yards and two touchdown runs, a 4-yarder in the first half and a 31-yard scamper in the fourth quarter that gave New Orleans a 51-29 lead. The Saints had scored 51 points twice before in their four-decade history and easily could have reached 52 if Payton had elected to kick the extra point. However, Payton called for a 2-point conversion that failed in an attempt to go up by 24 points.

The Packers scored first on a 1-yard touchdown leap by fullback John Kuhn. It was the first rushing touchdown for Kuhn in his three-year career and only his eighth carry.

But that would be Green Bay's last lead. Moore's 70-yard score came on the Saints' next play, and New Orleans took the lead on Thomas' first TD run. Green Bay tied it at 14 and again at 21 before New Orleans took the lead for good shortly before halftime on Garrett Hartley's 30-yard field goal, set up by Courtney Roby's 62-yard kickoff return.

McNabb will start again for Eagles

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Donovan McNabb's benching lasted less than 24 hours.

One day after he got yanked at halftime of a close game, the five-time Pro Bowl quarterback got his job back—for now. McNabb will start when the Philadelphia Eagles host the Arizona Cardinals on Thursday night.

"Donovan is the quarterback. I don't want to leave here until you understand that," coach Andy Reid emphasized at his news conference Monday. "Donovan is the quarterback for this football team."

McNabb was pulled from a game for the first time in his career after two dismal quarters in Sunday's 36-7 loss at Baltimore. The Eagles (5-5-1) only trailed 10-7 at the time, but Reid thought second-year pro Kevin Kolb gave the team a better chance to win a game it desperately needed to maintain its slim playoff hopes.

Kolb played poorly while McNabb watched from the sideline in a hooded jacket and minus the headset backups usually wear to assist coaches.

"Sometimes you have to step back to step forward in a positive way and Donovan will do that," Reid said. "This has nothing to do with Kolb's performance or Donovan's performance."

The Eagles are on the verge of missing the playoffs for the third time in four years since losing the 2005 Super Bowl. No matter how they finish, this could be McNabb's last season in Philadelphia.

McNabb, who turns 32 on Tuesday, is signed through 2013, but there's no chance the Eagles will pay him $9.2 million next year to be a backup. He's 22-21-1 as a starter since leading Philadelphia to four straight NFC championship games from 2001-04.

"As I sit here right now, he's my starting quarterback," Reid said. "I need to coach better. Donovan needs to play better and the guys around Donovan need to play better."

McNabb was 8-for-18 for 59 yards with two interceptions and a fumble in the first half against Baltimore. Last week, McNabb threw three interceptions and lost a fumble in an overtime tie with Cincinnati. Overall, he's completed 58.8 percent of his passes for 2,770 yards, 14 touchdowns, 10 interceptions and a passer rating of 81.1

"I think I know Donovan McNabb better than anybody in this room," Reid said. "I know (seven) turnovers, that's not him. That's no part of his game. You back up an inch and you evaluate it and you should be able to step forward a mile after that."

Kolb, a second-round pick in 2007, had thrown only nine career passes before entering to face a tough Ravens defense. He was 10-for-23 for 73 yards and two interceptions, including one returned an NFL-record 108 yards for a touchdown by Ed Reed.

The Eagles were down 22-7 and had a second down inside the 1 with just under 8 minutes left when Kolb threw the costly pick to Reed.

Kolb may get another chance to play once the Eagles are officially eliminated from the playoff race. Until then, McNabb could be auditioning for his next team.

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DCCA extends win streak to five

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs recorded its fifth win in as many games in the Budweiser 2008 Inter-Government/Business Softball League after overpowering the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., 14-6, Monday night at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Pitcher Mel Sakisat went 3-for-3 at the plate, making two triples and recording three RBIs. Sakisat also scored two runs.

DCCA used a nine-run top of the fifth to take control of the game.

Both teams struggled in the first four innings with DCCA scoring only in the first two innings making four in the first and only one in the second.

CUC had a slower start, nailing only one run at the bottom of the first and was shut out in the second and third innings.

Two sacrifice flies from first baseman Melvin Tudela and rightfielder Joe Fejeran ended CUC's slump and cut DCCA's lead to two, 3-5.

But DCCA third baseman Ben Tagabuel had a two-run triple at the bottom of the fifth and seven other batters made one RBI each to give the defending champion a 14-3 advantage.

Centerfielder Jeff Cabrera nailed a two-run double at the bottom of the fifth and CUC scored another run on a DCCA error to keep its upset bid alive.

But Sakisat and the DCCA's outfielders hung in tough in the last two innings allowing CUC only two hits and giving up no runs to preserve the defending champion's victory.

DCCA now has the solo lead in the 20-team field and is one of the only two unbeaten teams in the league. Commonwealth Ports Authority is the other undefeated squad with its 3-0 record.

Legislature 17, DEQ/CRM 3

Legislature, which had its four-game winning run snapped by DCCA Friday night, 4-14, vented its ire on Division of Environmental Quality/ Coastal Resources Management.

Legislature played in the last game Monday night and went home early, as it clobbered DEQ/CRM, 17-3, after only four and a half innings.

Dennis Ngeskebei, Toi Celis, and Dave Apatang went perfect at the plate with the trio going 3-for-3. The shortstop Celis had a two-run homer in the fourth inning, scored three runs, and had three RBIs. Apatang also had three RBIs, connecting on a two-run single in the second and a one-run triple in the third.

Perry Besong pitched in no relief for Legislature, allowing DEQ/CRM to only two hits in the first two inning innings and giving up no runs.

DEQ/CRM made it into the scoreboard in the third on a Larry Sugiyama sacrifice fly, but after three innings, Legislature was ahead, 7-1.

DEQ/CRM scored only two runs in the last two innings, while Legislature saved the best for last, firing 10 runs at the bottom of the fourth.

WOMEN'S NMC 17, CUC 13

In the women's division, Northern Marianas College kept the No. 1 spot after outlasting CUC, 17-13.

It was NMC's third win in as many games putting them half a game ahead of defending champion DCCA (3-1). CUC remained winless in four matches.

CUC committed too many turnovers in the first inning allowing NMC to score 14 runs at the top of the first. Leftfielder Pangelyn Falig scored CUC's lone run at the bottom on a Jenny Palacios's sacrifice fly.

CUC picked up the scoring in the ensuing plays, notching five runs apiece in the second and fourth innings, while NMC slowed down making only three runs in the last five innings. But NMC's 14-run top of the first was enough to preserve the win, as CUC fell short at the bottom of the sixth, recording only two runs.

Watanabe wins USSP 8-ball, Turkey Shoot tonight

Taylor Watanabe was in top form Monday in winning USS Peleliu's last 8-ball tournament before today's Marianas Turkey Shoot.

Watanabe shot past Ken Phillips, Dean Santos, and Ron Chisato to lead the winners' bracket, then fought off Santos in their rematch for a perfect night and the championship.

Chisato defeated Annie Tesiro and Jerry Soriano before being sent to the losers' bracket.

Santos climbed back with wins over Tesiro, Phillips, and Chisato for the chance to face Watanabe. Phillips had eliminated Soriano on an off night for the two-time Turkey Shoot champion.

The sign-up for this year's fourth edition of the Marianas Turkey Shoot is at 7pm. The entry fee is $15 for the double-elimination (two loss) 8-ball tournament. BCA rules will be followed.

Bud family beer will be $2.50 all night and MARPAC will be providing Cool Gear raffle prizes for players. There will also be live music from 8pm to 12am.

Because of the $15 entry fee, a 16-player field would yield awards of $120, $75, and $45 for first, second, and third places in addition to trophies provided by Pacific Amusement. The first and second place winners also bag a turkey for Thanksgiving.

Roger Espiritu and Rick Rengiil took the turkeys last year, with Rengiil's only losses coming in their head-to-head matches.

For more information about the Marianas Turkey Shoot or the weekly Monday 8-ball tournaments, please call Rose or Ken Phillips at 233-1984. ***(USSP)***

STAAL

From Page 28

Times in the 50m freestyle (25.25 seconds) in the boys' 13 to 14 age group.

A swimmer to post a Top 10 time can be considered in the rankings list, which is published in the Swimming World magazine and each qualifier receives certification from USA Swimming.

Staal posted his second record in the boys' 13 to 14 100m freestyle, timing in at 57.46 seconds and eclipsing the 13-year-old record of Taitano (Aug. 16, 1995), who clocked 57.86 seconds.

Again, Staal's new record in the 100m freestyle exceeded the Top 16 standard time, which is 58.29 seconds.

Staal is about three minutes away from the Top 10 standard time of 54.84 seconds.

The SIS swimmer, who also suits up for the Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan, said he had a fruitful 2008 season after breaking several records.

"I am happy that all the hard work I put in during my training is paying off. I hope to continue making records next season," Staal said.

He added he is excited to compete in two tournaments in Guam before the year ends after his successful performance in the All Schools.

"I and Kensuke (Kimura) will also go to Japan early next year to participate in two tournaments. These are great opportunities to set more records," Staal said.

Staal led the SIS Junior High School team to its third straight championship. The Geckos earned 104 points to beat Saipan Community (93 points), Grace Christian Academy (30), Whispering Palms (18), Home School (18), and Marianas Baptist Academy (14).

EPARWA

From Page 28

tooing 769 pinfalls following games of 169, 171, 161, and a tourney high 268—good for a 192.25 average.

Classified tourney champ Kitz Barja settled for third place this time, as the Micronesian Brokers, Inc. general manager wound up with 768 and 192 average (180, 218, 168, and 202).

Raul Dumapit (765 and 191.25) and Alex Cacdac (762 and 190.5) complete the Top 5 in the men's division for the penultimate monthly tilt of the year.

Aside from the turkey, Eparwa also pocketed $100 for the win, while Omechalang and Barja took home $50 and $30, respectively. Omechalang also received a case of Waioka sardines for registering the highest score of the competition.

Over in the women's side, Williams followed up her October victory by winning the November Queen of the Lanes following a four-game series of 734, good for a 183.5 average.

She strung together games of 171, 204, 195, and 164 to win her third monthly championship of 2008. Williams also topped the contest last January,

Diane Camacho and steadily improving Mhel Regis finished second and third with rolls of 726 (183, 204, 163, and 176) and 720 (180, 175, 189, and 176), respectively.

Williams, Camacho, and Regis received cash prizes of $60, $30, and $20 for their performances with the former also winning a case of beer courtesy of JET Holdings.

Last Sunday, Raphael Zapanta won his eighth Bing Prince of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament.

The November championship follows Zapanta's victories in the February, March, May, June, July, August, and October editions of the roll-off.

Like the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes, the Bing Prince/Princess of the Lanes is sponsored by MARPAC.

MMC

From Page 28

Kathy Pagapular, Angie Mister, Carol Auther, and Briana Martin, is still winless in six games.

In the third game of the day, Wild Bill's nailed its fourth win in seven games after slipping past Wild Bills, 3-2.

With the win, Wild Bill's moved up from fourth to third place with eight points.

Jaime Beavis is Wild Bill's team captain and the team is composed of Fedora Camacho, Mel Borja, Maria Ornes, Connie Camacho, Nola Hix, Veronica Saures, Catherine Anderson, Lindsay Davis, and Chirapan McGuire.

Despite the loss, Aon Insurance remained in the No. 2 spot in the team standings with a 4-2-1 win-loss-draw record. Aon has earned nine points in seven games. The team is headed by captain Laura Williams. Other members of the team are Brenda and Madison Schultz, Toi Smith, Becca Newman, Francine Sablan, Tomoko Kawakata, Rebekah Yost, Lisa Laniyo, and Anna Manibusan.

In the second game, Marine Tech Institute shut out Matt Smith's Law Office, 4-0.

MTI improved to a 3-4 record and handed Matt Smith's its second straight loss.

MTI, which is captained by Krista Hawley and has Reyna Saures, Amanda Armstrong, Nikki Gabaldon, Meaghan Hassel-Shearer, Toi Punperm, Noi Horey, Chantelle Voutilainen, Jocelyn Saures, and Carrie Knight as members, is at fourth place in the team standings with six points.

Matt Smith's, which is composed of Janel Villegas, Jojie Vallo, Bayarmaa O'Connor, Omdi Marino, Lakell Villegas, Linda Anastacio, Divya Sharma, Zoe Jewell, Asia Michaleum, and Katie Peters, dropped to fifth place with a 2-3-1 record and five points.

Games in the futsal league are played every Saturday, from 8:30am to 11:30am. This is the first women's futsal league in the CNMI. Futsal is an indoor football game with teams having five players each on the court. It demands quick reflexes, fast thinking, and accurate ball control. Games are played in a basketball-style court, with no walls and a low-bouncing ball, requiring players to use their skill rather than the ball's bounce to propel it.

ALL-STARS

From Page 28

The tandem of Savellano-Balaro topped Robert Reyes-Paul Navarro in the men's doubles BB, 20-22, 22-20, 22-20.

In the mixed doubles CB, Domingo and Fisher defeated Andrew Galvez and Lucelle Lampera, 21-12, 13-21, 21-19, while Savellano teamed up with Sabino to outclass the pair of Ariel Mariano and Elna Curate in the mixed doubles BC, 21-15, 19-21, 22-20.

In the last doubles match—the BB mixed doubles—Savellano and Estinopo thwarted Marlene Peraja and Reyes, 21-9, 21-17. Fisher recorded the Green All-Stars fifth win after downing Marlene Peraja, 21-12, 21-5, in the women's B singles.

Also nailing their second win were the Gray Hawks, who handed the Blue Powers their second straight loss, 4-2.

The victory put the Hawks in solo second place with an 8-4 record.

The Red Dragon Shuttlers and the Bad Masters, who dropped their opening games, recovered in Day 2 to share the No. 3 spot with the Smash Killers.

The Shuttlers thumped D' Bombers, 5-1, to improve to a 6-6 record.

Marilyn Montano recorded D'Bombers' lone win on Day 2, slipping past Gigi Zapanta in the women's B singles.

With D' Bombers having only one win on Day 2, they dropped to a 5-7 record.

The Net Fighters and the Blue Powers are at the bottom of the team standings with identical 4-8 slates.

Action in the Northern Marianas Badminton Federation-organized tournament will resume this weekend.

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NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	13	2	.867	_
New York	7	6	.538	5
Philadelphia	7	7	.500	5 1/2
New Jersey	6	6	.500	5 1/2
Toronto	6	7	.462	6

Southeast Division

Orlando	10	4	.714	_
Atlanta	8	5	.615	1 1/2
Miami	7	7	.500	3
Charlotte	4	9	.308	5 1/2
Washington	1	10	.091	7 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	10	3	.769	_
Detroit	8	5	.615	2
Chicago	7	8	.467	4
Milwaukee	7	9	.438	4 1/2
Indiana	5	7	.417	4 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Houston	10	5	.667	_
New Orleans	8	5	.615	1
San Antonio	7	6	.538	2
Dallas	6	7	.462	3
Memphis	4	10	.286	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	9	5	.643	_
Portland	9	6	.600	1/2
Utah	9	6	.600	1/2
Minnesota	3	9	.250	5
Oklahoma City	1	13	.071	8

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	11	1	.917	_
Phoenix	9	5	.643	3
Golden State	5	8	.385	6 1/2
Sacramento	5	11	.313	8
L.A. Clippers	2	12	.143	10

Yesterday's Games

Charlotte 93, Philadelphia 84
Orlando 108, Milwaukee 101
Houston 107, Miami 98
San Antonio 94, Memphis 81
Chicago 101, Utah 100
Portland 91, Sacramento 90
New Orleans 99, L.A. Clippers 87

2nd Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament

Best in Uniform the Red Dragon Shuttlers during the parade of teams in the opening ceremony for the 2nd Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Bad Masters pose for a group photo.

Jerry Tan does the ceremonial serve.

D' Bombers are all smiles during the teams parade.

The Smash Killers listen to opening ceremony guest speaker Jerry Tan.

The Green All-Stars listen to the speech of Lito Mendoza, president of tournament sponsor Traders Insurance.

The Blue Powers pose for the judges during the Best in Uniform contest.

The Blue Powers' Riza Cano serves.

The Gray Hawks Racquettes had only five players joining the opening ceremony, but were in full force for the actual competition.

Puy Macario of D'Bombers reaches for the shuttlecock.

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Yao, Rockets beat Heat, 107-98

Yao Ming scored 28 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, Ron Artest scored 20 and the Houston Rockets finished off a perfect three-game road trip against the Eastern Conference. **24**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

DCCA extends win streak to five

Defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs recorded its fifth win in as many games in the Budweiser 2008 Inter-Government/Business Softball League. **26**

Staal breaks two swim marks

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan International School's Kai Staal shattered two records in last weekend's 2008 All Schools Swimming Championships at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

The 14-year-old swimmer timed in at 25.68 seconds in the 50m freestyle of the 200m medley. Staal anchored the SIS Geckos relay team composed of James Kim, Cooper Graf and Sarah Johnson. SIS clocked 2:00.75 to finish second behind Marianas High School (1:56.36).

Staal's 25.68 seconds broke the 26.23 set by Joshua Taitano in the boys' 13-14 age group on Dec. 9, 1995.

Staal's new mark also surpassed the Top 16 Motivational Time in the 2005-2008 U.S. Swimming Time Standards. In the boys' 13 to 14 age group, the highest time standard (Four As) in the 50m freestyle is 26.79 seconds.

The SIS swimmer is only .43 of a second behind the 2007-2008 Top 10

See STAAL on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kai Staal plunges into the pool in the 100m freestyle race of the 2008 All Schools Championships Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

All-Stars take badminton tourney lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Green All-Stars gained their second straight win to claim the solo lead in the 2nd Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The All-Stars, who won their debut against the Blue Powers by only two points, 4-2, played better on Day 2 crushing the Smash Killers, 5-1.

After two days of competition, the All-Stars now have a 9-3 record while the Smash Killers dropped to a three-way tie for third.

The Smash Killers had a rousing start, whipping the Red Dragon Shuttlers, but on Day 2, only team captain Macoi Aguda won, topping Edwin Montoya in the men's A singles, 21-14, 21-16.

The Green All-Stars drew victories from the pairs of Jojo Savellano-Gerry Balarao, Roding Domingo-Debra Fisher, Savellano-Lupe Sabino, and Balarao-Lea Estinopo.

See ALL-STARS on Page 26

The Bad Masters' Irene Santiago chases down the shuttlecock during their game against the Gray Hawks Saturday during the opening of the 2nd Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The Masters lost to the Gray Hawks, but recovered against the Net Fighters Sunday, 4-2.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Eparwa, Emi excellent in November roll-off

MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Jon Eparwa already has a turkey for Thanksgiving, while Emi Williams completed a back-to-back in the November Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Bowling Tournament last Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center in Oleai.

Eparwa won for the first time in the monthly tournament since winning the December plum after putting together a four-game series of 786 or 196.5 average in the roll-off's first day last Sunday.

He started like a house on fire, connecting on 233 pins, but cooled down a bit in the last three games, toppling 197, 189, and a pedestrian 167.

Percy Omechalang finished 17 pins short of Eparwa's winning score, tat-

See EPARWA on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jon Eparwa and Emi Williams hold their turkey and beverage prizes after topping the November Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Bowling Tournament last Monday at the Saipan Bowling Center in Oleai.

MMC widens lead in futsal league

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Members of the Marianas Medical Center pose for a group photo before their game in the 2008 NMIFA Women's Futsal Fall League at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Marianas Medical Center strengthened its hold on the top spot in the 2008 NMIFA Women's Futsal Fall League after crushing Hardt Eye Clinic Saturday at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium.

MMC cruised to a 6-1 victory over Hardt Eye to improve to a 6-1 record, two wins ahead of its closest pursuers Aon Insurance and Wild Bill's.

After seven games in the double-round robin regular season, the Elizabeth Henke-captained MMC now has 12 points. Joining Henke on MMC roster are Vanessa Pritchard, Tawny Barcinas, Becky Covarrubias, Gayle Martin, Marya, Oestreich, Amber Roberts, Patty Coleman, Katie Busenkell, and Ciara Ada.

Hardy Eye, which is composed of captain Natalie Hill, Melody Matson, Jen Backhaus, Jenny Linden, Sami Birmingham-Babauta, Joelyn Saures,

See MMC on Page 26